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Title:

Comments: I hope this message finds you well. I want to express my appreciation for your dedication to our community and your commitment to protecting our communities from wildfires and supporting rural economies

I am writing to share my thoughts on the proposed amendment concerning forest management, particularly regarding old-growth forests. I understand the intent to reduce wildfire risks and support rural economies through sustainable practices.

However, I have concerns about the potential impact on old-growth forests. These ecosystems are invaluable not only for their biodiversity but also for their significant role in carbon sequestration.

Moreover, these forests offer unique economic opportunities beyond timber production. They attract tourism and recreation, which can be sustainable sources of income for local communities. Preserving old-growth forests can thus support economic resilience while maintaining ecological integrity.

I also recognize the importance of reducing wildfire risks. While mechanical thinning and prescribed burns are strategies used in forest management, it is crucial to apply these methods wisely, ensuring they do not compromise the health of old-growth ecosystems. Sustainable forestry practices that maintain natural forest structures and preserve old-growth stands are essential for safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem services.

I trust that we can find a balanced approach that protects these irreplaceable ecosystems while achieving our economic and safety goals and urge you to advocate for a plan that protects old-growth forests while supporting true sustainability.

Thank you for your service.