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Organization:

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Comments: Monique Nelson, Forest Supervisor

Tongass National Forest

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Subject: Objection to Draft Decision Notice - Herbert Glacier Cabin Project

My name is Alexandra Reich, and I previously submitted timely comments in support of building a new public use cabin for the Herbert Glacier Cabin Project. I am formally objecting to the draft Decision Notice declining to authorize construction of the cabin.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact concluded that the Herbert Glacier site was appropriate for a public use cabin and that the project would not result in significant environmental impacts. The draft decision does not clearly explain why the Proposed Action-supported by the EA analysis-is now being rejected.

Notably, the only opposition to the cabin came from parties affiliated with the proposed New Amalga Mine. Without a clear explanation from the agency, the decision creates the appearance that a foreign-owned mining interest is being prioritized over public recreational access. If that is not the case, the Forest Service should clearly explain how it weighed those considerations.

The U.S. Forest Service manages the Tongass National Forest under a multiple-use mandate that includes recreation as a core purpose. I respectfully request that the Forest Service reconsider authorizing construction of the Herbert Glacier Cabin, or provide a detailed and transparent explanation for reversing course despite the findings of the Environmental Assessment.