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First name: MHPE

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Organization: Milner, Howard, Palmer & Edwards CPAs

Title:

Comments: Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

A Letter of support for the Roadless Rule Exemption for the Tongass National Forest.

Milner, Howard, Palmer & Edwards, CPAs (PC)

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MILNER, HOWARD, PALMER & EDWARDS

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PC

Scott C Milner, CPA

Harold R. Howard III, CPA

Diane J. Palmer CPA

Scott D Edwards, CPA

November 6, 2019

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99802

akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

Subject: Alaska Roadless Rule

To Whom It May Concern:

We urge you to fully exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. Our firm understands the economic support that logging, mining and resource development has provided to the communities of Southeast Alaska. We need to restore more year-round jobs by growing the timber supply. Timber harvesting has not harmed the tourism industry, and many outdoor recreation activities take place near the previously harvested areas because of the access provided by the logging roads. We feel that the exemption is vital to the development of a diverse economic base in the region.

We have seen the devastating effects in our communities from the loss of over 90% of 4,500 private timber industry jobs. Mineral exploration has also suffered as a result of the Roadless Rule. As member of the community, we care deeply about the local fishing industry as well. Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will not cause harm to the region's fisheries. Fish habitat is already fully protected in the national forest.

We fully support the restoration of the Roadless Exemption so that Southeast Alaska can have the same economic opportunities as communities in or near other national forests.

Sincerely,

[Images of signatures]

[Position]