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First name: Meredith
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Organization: Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Title: Executive Director
Comments: December 17, 2019

Also submitted via email to: akroadlessrule@usda.gov

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christiansen,

On November 4th, 2019 the United States Forest Service held a public meeting in Juneau for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. Over 200 residents from Juneau attended the meeting which consisted of a thirty-five-minute PowerPoint presentation reviewing six alternatives presented in the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This presentation was followed by an opportunity for the public to ask questions and receive answers from several Forest Service staff. At this meeting it was clear that a majority of the 200+ attendees were discouraged and disappointed to find out the meeting would not include the opportunity to provide public testimony, and that the meeting would not be recorded and submitted for the record.

After this public meeting, several attendees requested Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) hold a community public meeting, providing space for Juneau residents to give testimony on the record. On December 16th, 2019, SEACC hired a certified court stenographer and held a community public meeting so that Juneau residents would be able to testify for the record. Over 35 community members attended and 21 of those attendees provided testimony for the record.

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council was likewise disappointed in the United States Forest Service's failure to properly serve the public by providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the record, as has been the case historically. It is our opinion that the public servants of the United States Forest Service is missing valuable information by purposely choosing not to include a public testimony process within these public meetings, and failing to record the public meetings generally.

Attached please find the recorded testimonies from our community public meeting, which we request and expect will be submitted for the record as 21 "unique letters" from the December 16th, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council's Juneau Community Roadless Rule Public Meeting.

Moving forward, we urge the Forest Service to record oral testimony at public meetings, for any and all rulemaking processes, in fulfillment of the Forest Service's mission and obligation to the public. Please contact

Dan Cannon, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council's Tongass Forest Program Manager, at dan@seacc.org with any further questions about these testimonies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Meredith Trainor

Executive Director

The following text was copy/pasted from 20 attached public testimonies. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PAULINE STRONG
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PAULINE STRONG: My name is Pauline Strong, P-A-U-L-I-N-E S-T-R-O-N-G. The zip code is 99801.

And I just wanted to say that I really value the Tongass for the old growth that's remaining there, and I don't want to see any more of it gone. And without roads is the way I value it the most, and so I support Alternative 1.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY TODD BAILEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

TODD BAILEY: Todd Bailey, Juneau, 99801, and my last name is B-A-I-L-E-Y.

I work in the Tongass. I have a small business, a gillnet and crab direct marketing operation. I've landed over a million pounds of salmon and crab in the Juneau Borough, Haines, Sitka, Petersburg, and Wrangell.

And I support Alternative 1. Alaska has some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, and I owe my livelihood to this, and also to the resource and the lands that support it.

Dungeness and salmon require wildland. Salmon, in particular, is the only thing you can buy in the grocery store that requires wildland, so I think it's even better than organic stuff because it requires wildland.

So I spend a lot of time out driving around, looking for jumpers and crab buoys and stuff, and I see the business that goes on in the Tongass -- the whale watchers, the tourism. I see the cruise ships come by and, you know, all that stuff seems well, like fine things. They don't impact the Tongass that much.

Then you come across a logging operation, and it's just a hot mess. I mean, you can see, you know, where the alders have grown through the roads in these old clearcuts, and, you know, nothing is going to happen there for a hundred years. You know, they don't come through and thin things out. People don't hunt there. They don't even maintain trails in these areas.

A lot of the areas that are highlighted under Alternative 6 are really important to the Dungeness crab fisheries -- inside of Sullivan Island, Windy Bay, Port Hooten, the Snettisham peninsula, all of these places. And the crab are down there digging in the mud. And if that gets all sedimented in, or if they have got their log storage areas there, it's just not going to be good.

Earlier somebody testified about the importance of how marginal the habitat is for coho salmon, and I second that. It seems like, in particular, them and pink salmon will be affected by logging. The northern Southeast stocks of pinks is -- we were just talking about that it's on the verge of being listed as a stock of concern, so any more impact to that -- when it's a big pink salmon year here in Southeast, it's the largest biomass of wild salmon in the world. It can be bigger than the Bristol Bay run, so it's an amazing resource.

Some of the other areas -- Thistle Ledge I saw was in red on the map there. Sand Bay. Thistle Ledge has got to

be a really important place if you're going anywhere between the Petersburg area and the Juneau area. If you were doing that in a canoe, that is where you would stop. It's an amazing spot. It's a big sandy pullout with a rock face that just keeps the heat right in front of it. There's also crab there. Point League, Point Sherman, all these places, it would be nice to keep catching fish and crab there. That's it.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E[shy]D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent \$40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a

mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PHILLIP GRAY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PHILLIP GRAY: My name is Phillip Gray. I live at Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I've lived in Juneau for over 50 years. I don't have a prepared statement, so I'm just going from memory. I worked for Fish and Game for over 20 years, about 17 to 18 years as a coho research biologist studying cohos throughout Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan. We did some of the first studies on ages of coho that were done, and we also did tagging of juvenile cohos to study harvest rates, migration routes, and timing.

So I've spent a lot of time on the ground in unlogged areas, and I know a lot about coho salmon and what they require. And I've also been in some areas that have been pretty heavily logged, where the areas have been pretty well destroyed.

The first one I remember was over in a place called Iris Meadows in Sitka where Fish and Game had proposed a transplant. It was just a beautiful area. And the commercial fishermen over there saw so much mud coming out of the streams they called up Fish and Game and said, "You guys better get over here and look at this."

So we traveled over there and went through the area, and it looked like it had been bombed. I mean, I remember one place where the whole hillside had slid off into a lake. We tried walking up one of the streams, and it was kind of an unstable pumice soil. And that had slid into the stream, so it was almost knee deep with all the soil that had slid into the stream. So that was one of my first experiences with clearcut logging.

And I also -- personally, myself -- I rely on the old-growth forest here for fishing and for deer hunting. One of my friends and I went deer hunting down in Whitewater Bay on Admiralty Island, which used to be one of Ralph Young's favorite bear hunting areas. We started out going through the logged area, which turned out to be almost impassible, because you fall into big holes, and you could spear yourself on some of the logging debris; so it was dangerous walking there.

And we got on the logging road that went up towards the mountain we wanted to hunt, and it was quite a ways. We walked 7 miles through this logging road. We never saw a single deer or any sign in 7 miles. I guess we saw one mayor. It was pretty tough walking. The alders had grown up pretty thick on this road. But in 7 miles, no sign of any life -- no deer or nothing. As soon as we stepped out into the old growth at the end of 7 miles and up in the headwaters, we started seeing deer sign all over. So that was another experience that convinced me that old-growth logging is dangerous and seriously damaging to both fish and deer.

Coho salmon require -- they're found in almost all little tiny streams and tributaries all over Southeast Alaska. Just little streams that you can almost step across or can step across seem to be some of the most important ones. They are found in marshes and sloughs and lakes and all these little tributaries, and they're seriously damaged by logging. There is no way you can avoid that. Putting roads in and old-growth logging just is not compatible with good-faith production.

So I'm in favor of that Alternative 1, keeping the roadless rule in place. I don't approve of any old-growth logging or roads in any more of the old-growth areas in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BOB SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BOB SCHROEDER: Thank you so much for being here and supporting protection of the Tongass. My name is Bob Schroeder, S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. I live in zip code 99801. My Tlingit name is Chakeen. I'm Takdeintaan, Raven's Nest House from Hoonah.

I'm also a SEACC board member, and I sit on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for subsistence. Much of my career has been working on the subsistence issue, and that's what I'll focus my comments on this evening.

Basically, the DEIS is extremely disrespectful to indigenous people. The DEIS, for those of you who have looked through it, includes an extremely thin depiction or acknowledgment of tribes, traditional territory, or culture. It also does not describe subsistence uses of the Tongass National Forest in any great detail.

And for those of you who may not be familiar with that literature, it's really deep. The Forest Service itself has spent easily \$1 million in documenting subsistence uses in the Tongass National Forest, which includes estimates of harvest levels of fish and wildlife in all the subsistence communities in the region, mapping of subsistence use territories, and mapping of Kwaan and clan territories.

This is a very serious NEPA failing, a National Environmental Policy Act failing, in that what a NEPA document is supposed to do is tell you what you know about the land or the territory that's under review.

I've had the occasion to be at a number of so-called subsistence hearings and have spoken to some of my colleagues who have been at others of these hearings. To say that the hearings held in communities have been overwhelmingly in favor of the No-Action Alternative doesn't do it justice. I mean, there's not a single person who shows up saying, "What we really need in Hoonah, what we really need in Angoon, what we really need in Kake are a lot more roads." Nobody is saying this. And these are people who have also had their experience with logging and logging on Native corporation land and also need jobs to survive. So this response has been really overwhelming in keeping the roadless rule as it is.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the technicalities of the evaluation of subsistence, because this is kind of a special law. Subsistence is protected by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, Section 8. And under Section 810 -- this gets a little wonky. Excuse me. Section 810 directs Federal agencies as to what they're supposed to do if they're doing a land use action that may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Now, those are kind of weird terms. What does that mean? That means that if you're going to do something on the land, on federal land, that looks like it may have an effect on subsistence uses, you have to analyze that and come to a determination of significant restriction, or they used to call it FONSI. I don't know if anyone can guess what that means. That's a Finding Of No Significant Impact. So this is all in Forest Service procedures as to how you approach a plan that is a land use action.

In this particular plan, the DEIS for changing the roadless rule really doesn't do this, so it does not analyze subsistence data. It doesn't present subsistence data, and it does not come up with a finding, as required by Forest Service procedures, of significant or no significant impact.

The reason why that's so important is that in Forest Service procedures, subsistence hearings can only be held after you do this step. And that's kind of logical, because if you were doing something and there was no significant impact, you don't need to have hearings, because there isn't any significant impact. But if you do, you go and have hearings to decide whether or not this is real, whether the analysis was correct, and you want to hear from people in that case.

The hearings that were held throughout Southeast Alaska were fatally flawed, because they did not present any finding that people could respond to. And in that respect, they completely violate the Forest Service's own procedure and a clear and obvious reading of ANILCA Section 810, which is the governing law in this case.

So for these reasons, I believe that the DEIS is fatally flawed and will need to be completely redone before it can be considered just on the subsistence grounds.

The next thing that happens after you have hearings is that the deciding officer -- in this case, that would be Secretary Perdue -- would need to -- if they decide to go ahead with an action, would need to decide that this is somehow necessary. And that's a pretty steep jump, because we have all the people in our regions saying that, "Boy, we really don't want this at all." And so to come out with a finding that it was necessary to do so after holding a bunch of hearings where people say, "Boy, we don't want any change to this law at all" would be a real steep step.

Let's see what else I have here.

I think the DEIS needs to be completely withdrawn. We need to show respect for indigenous cultures. We will point out that Native people have been caretakers of the land on which we walk for thousands of years, and that it's basically the failed fossil capitalism that has us in the fix that we're in, both in the Tongass and with respect to the climate emergency that we face.

Everyone here appears to support the No-Action Alternative, and I support a modified No-Action Alternative. And the reason it needs to be modified is that the inventory of roadless areas is incorrect and it omitted a number of areas, specifically approximately 150,000 acres of forest land that was not roaded but had already been designated for harvest under the pulp company contracts. And so that land still had not been roaded, but it does not appear in the roadless inventory.

Secondly, I believe that since we're going through this exercise at great public expense and calling on a great involvement of people of Southeast Alaska, that I really think that we shouldn't just settle for the existing roadless rule, but we need to, as I said, include the areas that were erroneously omitted from the roadless inventory.

And I think we should examine whether or not, once an area has a road, does that mean that it endlessly is a roaded area? If something had a road put in it in 1975 and nothing has happened there, maybe that's a roadless area as well. I think we need a lot more than the current roadless inventory to be covered by the roadless rule.

That's my testimony. Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY RICHARD FARNELL

PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

RICHARD FARNELL: My name is Richard Farnell, R-I-C-H-A-R-D F-A-R-N-E-L-L, and my zip code 99802.

First of all, I'd like the Forest Service to explain why they're violating my First Amendment rights by not taking testimony from my community that has the majority of citizens in Southeast Alaska, but they will take testimony from very small communities. This is the justification that the U.S. Supreme Court used in approving the Citizens United lawsuit that destroyed American democracy, so I would think that they would at least allow me to testify in my own community. But please provide me with the justification that you're using for that.

Secondly, keep all existing roadless areas in the Tongass in the existing roadless rule for the Tongass. I want all roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest to remain in the current national roadless rule jurisdiction. In other words, Alternative 1.

I've recently made a \$200,000 investment in ability to access roadless areas of the Tongass for hiking, backpacking, trail bike riding, as well as marine-based kayaking and skiffing. These have occurred or will occur on all areas that are currently roadless in the Tongass National Forest. I'm optimistic about my ability to enjoy recreation. I depend on these activities for health and sanity in the era of fake news, continuous lying by the president of the United States and high-level elected officials, and lying by representatives of resource extraction industries to be able to subvert the will of the public.

Secondly, the process being undertaken by the Forest Service and the Citizens Advisory Committee is unnecessary. It subverts the intent of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling against the state control of roadless designations, and the recently revised management provisions of the Tongass Land Management process. The proposed process, as stated in the press release, has the intent to develop a state-specific roadless rule that establishes a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics in the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction activities determined by the state to be necessary for forest management.

This intent is illegal. The State of Alaska is not responsible for managing lands on the Tongass National Forest; the federal government is. So the entire intent of this process is without legal basis. In addition, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling on the subject rejected a move to allow states to designate roadless areas on federal lands.

Secondly, the stated goals of conserving roadless area characteristics while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction are in complete conflict with one another, showing that the intent of this process is not clearly thought out.

Fourth, the members chosen for the Citizens Advisory Committee overwhelmingly represent the resource extraction industry and do not include important stakeholder groups who use the forest, such as tourism, hunters, anglers, and backcountry recreationalists. In addition, the scientists who know about the physical and biological health of the forest are also absent from this committee. Therefore, this committee is not representative of forest uses and is inadequate to objectively review proposals for roadless area changes.

Fifth, the choice of the Forest Service of Alternative 6th in the draft roadless rule, full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 roadless area conservation rule, fails to account for the vital role that the Tongass National Forest

plays is carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, the major cause of catastrophic climate change, C-3 -- I'm inventing a new term here -- that is occurring to our planet. The ability of forests such as the Tongass to sequester carbon within the body of old-growth forest means that this characteristic of the undisturbed Tongass forest should be given the highest priority over all other users and uses due to the emergency created by CO2-produced climate change.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report of October 2018 maps out four pathways to achieve a 1.5-degree centigrade maximum atmospheric concentration CO2 level. Reforestation is an essential part of all four strategies. Think of all the jobs that the U.S. Forest Service could create with a replanting program in the areas of the Tongass already damaged from commercial logging, and such a program could help to sequester carbon as well.

Finally, I would request, Secretary Perdue, for you to get a proper perspective on the choice that you're making for these alternatives, you need to visit the moon, and you need to look back at earth and get a view of earth as it is right now, because should you continue with the proposal that you've already stated, this planet is no longer going to be viable and inhabitable. And then you can come back home, and you'll have a better perspective.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1. Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY JULIE KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

JULIE KOEHLER: My name is Julie Koehler, J-U-L-I-E, K-O-E-H-L-E-R, 99802.

I have used the Tongass National Forest since 1985 for recreation, hunting, fishing, berry-picking, kayaking, and on and on. From my college education in fish and wildlife management, work as a naturalist, work as a biological technician, and my personal use of the forest over all these years, I understand the ecology of an old-growth forest and what happens after it's logged. Therefore, I support Alternative 1, the No-Action Alternative.

Like many hundreds of other Southeast Alaskans, I have spoken numerous times over the decades in favor of keeping Tongass old growth standing and intact. Forest Service officials know from the studies done by many, many researchers that keeping old growth stands intact is what needs to be done to protect our Fish and Wildlife resources and ensure their sustainability.

So no need for me to review what has already been pointed out by countless professionals and those of us who know this forest. Instead, I'm going to call out this whole proposal to exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule

for what it is, a bald-faced sham, to end-run the wishes of the people who live here and who have had enough of the Forest Service and the State of Alaska trying to liquidated the old growth.

At the Forest Service's November 4th shameful and shameless dog and pony show on this proposal, we were told that exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule won't change how the forest is managed and moving toward the logging of second growth. If that were the case, then why is this exemption being proposed? It is a guise to do old-growth logging through road building.

Alternative 6, minimum impact? Ha. We all know that isn't so. We all know that the guise of this roadless rule exemption is eventually going to end up -- actually probably pretty quickly end up revising the Tongass Land Management Plan so it can incorporate this change and increase the old growth harvest level. And we all know it's a back-door entry into the Chugach National Forest. Our old growth is more valuable standing. Let's keep it standing. Alternative 1. No action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY DAVID LENDRUM
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

DAVID LENDRUM: Good evening. My name is David Lendrum. I live in Juneau. L-E-N-D-R-U-M. I get my mail at 99803.

My worry about roads in the Tongass is that when you cut the trees down and you expose the ground, no matter what you might think that's going to grow back, the richness and diversity will never return. When they logged in the Adirondacks two centuries ago, there are plots laying next to each other, one of which was never logged, one of which was logged 200 years ago. The species diversity is incomparable between the two sites. Things that vanish will never be seen again. Things that are only allowed, only endemic to a particular area and the rules that determine how things adapt to their areas mean that the specific zone that something lives in and grows up in and is adapted to and evolves to fill, that may never be seen again. If these roads penetrate the forest, penetrate the forest fabric, and as a consequence areas become logged, that's what we're looking at. We are looking at a tremendous loss in species diversity.

I was the Southeast representative on the Invasive Species Council for several years, and part of my work there involved looking at the DOT network. And it's very, very clear that invasive species spread by road maintenance activities. If you look at the map showing an overhead view of where we have located invasive species concentrations, they're the nexus of roadwork operations. They can't get there without a road. That's something to always watch out for. The road doesn't just take us; other things go on it too. So I support Alternative 1.

Thank you very much.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY LISA GREENOUGH
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

LISA GREENOUGH: My name is Lisa Greenough, L-I-S-A G-R-E-E-N-O-U-G-H. And my zip code is 99821.

I'm here tonight to share with the Forest Service my views of the roadless rule, and I support Alternative 1 of keeping the Tongass free of roads that are not needed.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My family moved here in 1963. And I have a young son who is 23, who has grown up here in Juneau, and has had the benefit of living his formative years in a beautiful national forest, which is truly a national treasure. And we should take care of it as such.

Last year, last summer in Southeast, we experienced a drought. NOAA did determine that the entire region was

in a drought, and it's been in a drought for about the last four years. For those of us who live here we've seen the needles dropping from the trees. The carbon sequestration in the Tongass is critical. It may be the balance that is needed to be preserved so that we don't tip over into another horrible global, you know, warming. We already are experiencing climate change, but by preserving and protecting the Tongass by not having roads can prevent us from experiencing increased climate change. We need to really protect it for that reason.

Our family enjoys fishing and hunting for deer. All of my family members love to hike, so the recreation potential for the Tongass is really important for the residents of Southeast Alaska, but now we're discovering that it's desirable for just about everybody else in the world. We have visitors coming from all over the U.S., particularly the southern U.S., and they're coming here in the summers for some reasons to escape the heat in the Lower 48. So we need to think about the Tongass as our refrigerator that's helping to keep the rest of the northwest cool and keeping the quality of life that we have in Southeast preserved, especially for future generations.

And I don't have grandchildren yet, but I hope to someday have grandchildren, and I want them to be able to have the experiences that I enjoyed as a child. And I want your grandchildren to have those experiences as well.

So I support Alternative 1, no roads in the Tongass. We don't need them, and the people in the country don't want roads in Alaska. It's not just people here in Juneau or in other Southeast communities; the people in this country do not want roads in Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KARLA HART
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KARLA HART: My name is Karla Hart, K-A-R-L-A H-A-R-T. 99801 is my zip code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information. I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska with over 55 years of living in Southeast Alaska. Over that time I've hiked, rowed, paddled, watched wildlife, boated, and guided tourists and explored and volunteered from Yakutat down to Prince of Wales Island. I've seen a lot of land over a lot of time and seen a lot of changes.

Rolling back the roadless rule designation has impacts so broad and destructive that I, as a private citizen, do not have enough time to personally analyze and respond to every detail. By reference I support and include all of the 117 pages of comments submitted by the professionals at the Alaska Wilderness League, National Wildlife Foundation, et al., including Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, of which I'm a proud member.

My reasons are varied and many. Climate change -- as mentioned, the science is solid. Climate change is happening, and the Tongass has immense global value for carbon sequestration. Leave the old growth alone. Leave the roadless areas intact and undisturbed.

Ecological values. We don't even know what we don't understand or misunderstand. No volume of analysis in an environmental document today can predict what people will know and value tomorrow. Looking back just a few decades shows the ongoing learning curve. Do no harm. Leave the roadless areas roadless. These areas extend from the presently glacier-covered rock through alpine, subalpine, various forests zones, and stages of growth

down to tidewater and the unique uplifting margins of the archipelago. Complex, understudied exploitation of these areas is not in the best interests of the Tongass or of the present and future generations of people, wildlife, animals, and plants that will live here.

Invasive species are a particular concern of mine, and I shared some at the Forest Service's public meeting but not hearing. I've seen so many new invasive species coming into the region and spreading and spreading and spreading. And volunteering with the Forest Service, I've gone out and pulled weeds and spent ten days at a time in the wilderness with teams pulling weeds and seeing that it's like putting your little finger in a dike that's collapsing.

Right now the roadless areas are fairly safe from invasive species because there aren't a lot of ways for the invasives to get in. If we leave them alone, they can stay relatively safe. We do not have the resources -- the national forest does not have the resources to inventory the invasives, much less to protect them.

One more point, and then I'll send the rest in my written comments.

Mining. Their analysis claims that this isn't going to have much benefit for mining, and yet I saw a couple of key mining people at the public meeting that the Forest Service had in Juneau before. It made me wonder what's up. The Forest Service specifically says, with their very carefully worded language, that the 1872 mining law already allows them to access the roadless areas. So it says, "Changes in roadless management are therefore not expected to affect existing or future locateable mine exploration or mining activities in the forest."

It doesn't mean it can't make it a lot cheaper and easier for them to get their permits and to go in and not have to do things that take care of the land. They don't detail that, and I am suspicious that we're giving up a lot without even knowing it. The same with leasable mines and their language there. They're not being transparent with the public on what's happening. And I'll leave it there.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY ELAINE SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ELAINE SCHROEDER: Name is Elaine Schroeder, E-L-A-I-N-E S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. My zip code is 99801.

I'm the co-chair of 350 Juneau, Climate Action for Alaska, which is an affiliate of 350.org, an

international organization dedicated to mitigating the climate crisis. Our board supports the retention of the roadless rule, and specifically for its positive impact on carbon sequestration.

According to the DEIS, the Tongass may store an estimated 601 to 650 million U.S. tons of above-ground carbon. This is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Needless to say, this is a lot of carbon and carbon

dioxide equivalents.

Data cited in the DEIS is old, and more recent studies on forest carbon sequestration have not been examined, which is a serious defect of the DEIS. 350 Juneau believes that carbon sequestration needs to be considered as the best use of the Tongass National Forest. Enhanced carbon sequestration is required in light of the October 2018 International Panel on Climate Change report and the November 2018 National Climate Assessment Report. These documents are cited but their stark conclusions are not discussed in the DEIS, which needs to address how the change in the roadless rule would affect carbon sequestration, considering the global need for climate emergency amelioration.

The DEIS also makes no attempt to provide quantitative data on carbon capacity -- past, present, and future. This is a clear failing of the DEIS since it does not present best available data on this topic. In place of actual data, the DEIS launches into inconclusive, discursive discussion that befuddles the obvious fact that removing large quantities of timber from the Tongass National Forest reduces the carbon carrying capacity of this forest.

So given the importance of carbon sinks and carbon storage in the context of global heating, the omission of any of substantive analysis and quantification is unconscionable. The DEIS' discursive discussion obfuscates the effects of timber harvest in the Tongass by refusing to accurately report known and settled science on the role of forests in capturing and restoring carbon. The tone of this document edges on a denial of settled science.

And to reiterate, 350 Juneau supports a No-Action Alternative.

Thanks.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BART KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BART KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler. I'm the former executive director of SEACC twice over and currently a board member. I live here in Juneau. Zip code, 99802. I need to spell my name -- B-A-R-T K-O-E-H-L-E-R.

I'm going to sing my testimony tonight, and hopefully you'll join me in the chorus of this. Before I do that, I have to recite my favorite quote from Wally Hickel, which was "If you don't have roads, you can't get anywhere." Okay. Well, that was on a radio program. The guy who had called in had said, "Well, I don't see that as a problem. I live in Cordova. I get along fine in my boat and by ferry."

Anyway, the way this song goes -- key of D -- and I have to read the words so I don't mess this up too badly. (Singing.) I was standing in the Tongass. What did I see? A forest full of giant trees running to the sea. We need to stand up for our old growth, keep those logging roads away. Let's stand up for the trees and keep the roadless rule today.

Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Save those trees today. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass, keep the roadless rule today.

Can you all join me in that chorus one more time? Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the

Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. One more time. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. Keep the roadless rule today, Sonny Perdue.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KRISTINE TROTT: Kristine Trott, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-E T-R-O-T-T. 99801.

I've been here -- I moved up to Juneau in 1978. I sailed up here with my to-be hubby in a trimaran we built. And as we sailed along, we saw places where they had clearcut forest in the Tongass and the devastation it left, and we'd see mass wasting because there was a lot of logging done on too steep of land.

And then when we got here, we moved out the road where I live, and we have an old cannery site. We would go sailing all around Southeast, and I've seen and been in the marvelous forests that are all throughout Alaska. And they are -- like even on the Shelter Island, you can go on the east side of Shelter Island and up into the woods there, and it's like a cathedral. And I'm going to -- I mean, that's my church in this world.

But I'm going to read some of my outline that I've done. We need to keep the roadless rule in all of Tongass and in all of Alaska. There is no exception. It was put in place for a very strong reason. It's protecting wildlife habitat because the habitat is being lost or degraded at an alarming rate. It's for protecting the species, because we're losing many species, and we know that diversity is critical for a high quality of life. And it's for saving wildlands. It is important for humanity to have wildlands to get back to, because that wild land holds a lot of species that have not even been found yet that can benefit humanity even, besides benefiting themselves.

Diversity is critical to a healthy life. Saving wildlands is also important because of the unique and special places that are hurt by having roads into them. There is too much easy access, and there are many people who haven't got very good values. I have so many times cleaned up garbage that's been dumped, appliances, dirty diapers, things like that left out in the wilderness of all things. I have hiked many of the mountains down in Washington and California, and when there are roads, you find trash.

And in sailing around Southeast, we've gone to Prince of Wales Island and been in logging communities there, and Prince of Wales has lots of roads on it. There are people who live in those communities who think it's their private hunting ground, and they can go out and hunt deer any time of year that they like. And I was there in July and personally saw some fellows from that logging camp come in with two deer in the back of their pickup in July, and my husband had to practically hogtie me, because I was going to go and accost those guys. I was furious. But you have roads in there, and then you get these scofflaws in there who think it's their right to go shoot whenever they want. And, you know, I can't abide that.

The cost of building roads in Alaska is prohibitive. It is economically unjustified because they are giving it away to

the logging companies or the mining companies, and it's public money to build these roads for private industries.

The environmental damage that those roads do is incredible, and just driving out our "Road to

Nowhere" we see for that mile and a half, I think it is, the incredible footprint this road has put on the land there, how deep the rock base is that they blasted and filled. It's just mind-boggling. And, you know, just think of all the creatures and everything that were put underneath all that rock that were killed.

The land belongs to the public, not to these private industries, and the public doesn't need to subsidize private interests -- logging, mining, oil extraction.

And last but not least, our big forests are a major carbon sink, to help keep the carbon in the ground and in the trees the way it should be, to help fight global warming. My daughter lives down in Texas, and I have seen the damage done when they ravage and pave and everything else, and they flood beyond anything. And she has a pasture where the old plains grass is left and thick. And the cattle and horses in those fields -- they're not flooded because that sponge holds the soil. They have deep roots. That's carbon in the soil. They soak up the water.

You know, the same thing here. We have trees that need to stay upright to help our carbon sequestration so that the global warming and climate change is as mitigated as we can help to do. So I'm basically quite against doing anything but keeping that roadless rule in place, and Alternative 1 is the one I choose. Thank you.

Additional testimony provided after other speakers:

KRISTINE TROTT: In spite of homesteading, we also lived and worked abroad for ten years, returning back every summer. We've worked from Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, China, Russia, and I've been in the eastern United States as well. Every time we came back to our home in Juneau, the air quality was incomparable. That is because of the intact forest and the deep connection with the mycorrhiza -- the connection with our forests and trees, which are all interlaced with their roots holding each other up, and the mycorrhiza can live amongst that and bring the nutrients to the trees, but they also give out healthful aerosols, which is, I think, a very large part of the healthfulness of this forest.

I've been in New Zealand forests. I've been in Thailand forests. I've been in forests in Russia and in Finland, and none of those forests have the same healthy air, clean air. Every time we came back to Juneau it was a breath of fresh air, literally, and there is no alternative for this clean air.

I grew up in Washington state and hiking and climbing in the mountains, and on the Olympic peninsula, and what they have done on the Olympic peninsula is a travesty. It cannot happen here. It's so important to keep these forests. I use the forests for subsistence as well. My kids have all grown up here. And I've seen the damage done in California and in Texas, and I don't want it to happen here. I do support Alternative 1.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

[Position]

The following text was copy/pasted from 20 attached public testimonies. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY AUTUMN SIMONS
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

AUTUMN SIMONS: So my name is Autumn Simons, A-U-T-U-M-N S-I-M-O-N-S. My zip code is 99801.

I reside on Douglas Island and have loved spending time in the Tongass recreationally, specifically around Juneau and on Douglas island and in Kake, Alaska. I am fortunate and beyond privileged to call the southeast of Alaska my home. And though I'm not surprised that the U.S. government continues to disregard public outcry regarding climate, racial, indigenous, and environmental justice, I'm here to say that building more roads through the Tongass National Forest will cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's and one of the world's greatest treasures.

The Tongass National Forest not only is an essential ecological hub for wildlife, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, but also a place that Alaska Natives and indigenous people have lived in for thousands of years. Culturally, the current evaluation fails to acknowledge and consider the impacts on subsistence living, which disrespect and further marginalizes indigenous peoples and tribal governments.

Economically, building more roads only fills the pockets of private industries on the dime of Alaskan residents and at the expense of indigenous people.

Environmentally, we lose far greater than what we can ever recover, as has been scientifically and historically cited over hundreds of years of clearcutting in places both in and out of Alaska.

Listen to the voices of the Tongass, the hundreds of people that have cried out against the atrocity that would be altering the Tongass by building more roads and logging. For these reasons I strongly urge Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PAULINE STRONG
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PAULINE STRONG: My name is Pauline Strong, P-A-U-L-I-N-E S-T-R-O-N-G. The zip code is 99801.

And I just wanted to say that I really value the Tongass for the old growth that's remaining there, and I don't want to see any more of it gone. And without roads is the way I value it the most, and so I support Alternative 1.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY TODD BAILEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

TODD BAILEY: Todd Bailey, Juneau, 99801, and my last name is B-A-I-L-E-Y.

I work in the Tongass. I have a small business, a gillnet and crab direct marketing operation. I've landed over a million pounds of salmon and crab in the Juneau Borough, Haines, Sitka, Petersburg, and Wrangell.

And I support Alternative 1. Alaska has some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, and I owe my livelihood to this, and also to the resource and the lands that support it.

Dungeness and salmon require wildland. Salmon, in particular, is the only thing you can buy in the grocery store

that requires wildland, so I think it's even better than organic stuff because it requires wildland.

So I spend a lot of time out driving around, looking for jumpers and crab buoys and stuff, and I see the business that goes on in the Tongass -- the whale watchers, the tourism. I see the cruise ships come by and, you know, all that stuff seems well, like fine things. They don't impact the Tongass that much.

Then you come across a logging operation, and it's just a hot mess. I mean, you can see, you know, where the alders have grown through the roads in these old clearcuts, and, you know, nothing is going to happen there for a hundred years. You know, they don't come through and thin things out. People don't hunt there. They don't even maintain trails in these areas.

A lot of the areas that are highlighted under Alternative 6 are really important to the Dungeness crab fisheries -- inside of Sullivan Island, Windy Bay, Port Hooten, the Snettisham peninsula, all of these places. And the crab are down there digging in the mud. And if that gets all sedimented in, or if they have got their log storage areas there, it's just not going to be good.

Earlier somebody testified about the importance of how marginal the habitat is for coho salmon, and I second that. It seems like, in particular, them and pink salmon will be affected by logging. The northern Southeast stocks of pinks is -- we were just talking about that it's on the verge of being listed as a stock of concern, so any more impact to that -- when it's a big pink salmon year here in Southeast, it's the largest biomass of wild salmon in the world. It can be bigger than the Bristol Bay run, so it's an amazing resource.

Some of the other areas -- Thistle Ledge I saw was in red on the map there. Sand Bay. Thistle Ledge has got to be a really important place if you're going anywhere between the Petersburg area and the Juneau area. If you were doing that in a canoe, that is where you would stop. It's an amazing spot. It's a big sandy pullout with a rock face that just keeps the heat right in front of it. There's also crab there. Point League, Point Sherman, all these places, it would be nice to keep catching fish and crab there. That's it.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and

support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CEDAR MALICK
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR MALICK: Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Cedar Malick. My first name is C-E[shy]D-A-R -- ironic, being named after a tree. Last name, M-A-L-I-C-K. Zip code is 99801.

I was born in Juneau, Alaska here. My family homesteaded, so every day I got to see and live in the forest. I got to enjoy and hike every trail I could reach, partake in the fish and game and the exceptional air and water here.

Now, I have a couple numbers I think people need to consider. One billion acres. That is the extent of the old-growth forest before Columbus got to North America. 25 percent, which is the percentage of old-growth forest left standing today. Despite what someone claimed, these forests are not renewable. Once you cut down a 500- to 1,000-year-old tree, guess how long it's going to take to come back? The Tongass is one of the last tracts of unexploited forest in America and provides vital habitat for salmon, fisheries that are already in dire straits. If that habitat collapses, fish hatcheries would only be able to support the salmon populations for a finite time since it is becoming harder and harder to keep their stocks alive because of climate change.

I should know. I've worked in a fish hatchery before, and I got to see firsthand how difficult it is. In the short six years that I worked there, I saw how many fish we'd lose just in incubation.

Now, there is a movie that some of you may know called Soylent Green. I think it's a movie that every person in high school, every student should watch, because it is very sobering. The future presents as a world in the late stages of complete environmental collapse, where trees exist only in exclusive greenhouses. This is an extreme example, but if you want to avoid even the best-case scenario of that horror, we have to start now. So ask yourself: When is enough enough? How low are we willing to let that old-growth percentage get?

Now, I, for one, would not like our great-great-grandchildren to be spitting on our graves in the future, and neither should you. The Tongass is our temple, more holy than any church. Please support Alternative 1, no action.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MARC SCHOLTEN
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MARC SCHOLTEN: My name is Marc Scholten, M-A-R-C S-C-H-O-L-T-E-N, 99801.

I moved up here in 1980, and I worked as a cartographer for the Forest Service in the regional office. At that time, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund spent \$40 million a year supporting the timber industry, and most of the industry was operating in the southern Tongass -- Prince of Wales Island and Kuiu and Zarembo; a bunch of these islands, anyway. There was a lot of resource damage due to clearcutting.

And I think I want to, first of all, say that I support No. 1, the Alternative No. 1, No-Action Alternative. And the greatest reason to support that is to really take a look at the big picture of the whole earth. We're in actually a climate catastrophe, and I think what we can do best to help protect our planet and our future for everybody is to not log. We should be planting trees and not cutting them down, and that is the best way to carbon-capture the CO2 that's in our atmosphere.

I also, like most everybody here, use the forest for recreation. I used to use it for subsistence, and mostly for a mental -- well, try to retain a mental -- anyway, I'm not a good public speaker.

But it is so refreshing to get out in the woods and just to forget about all the insanity that's going on in our politics and with the climate catastrophe and that. And it grounds you to the planet, to everything that we're related to. And I just want to recommend that they stick with Alternative 1 and retain the mystique and the mysterious and the great old growth that is here in the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY FRED HILTNER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

FRED HILTNER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Fred Hiltner, H-I-L-T-N-E-R. The zip code is 99801.

So I'm here to testify that I'm for Alternative 1, no action toward road building in the Tongass forest. My first job in Alaska 40 years ago was doing wildlife biology, comparing old-growth timber areas with clearcut, logged area. It was clear that comparing old growth with logged areas displaced many wildlife species, from bears to deer to salmon to mice and so on.

Another point -- as an Alaskan subsistence hunter for almost 40 years, it was clear that deer were less frequent in clearcut areas, and transiting through those areas was much more difficult for deer and for hunters, in fact.

My third point -- building roads is not cost-effective and is a waste of taxpayer money, and it also damages our fragile and unique forest.

As a manager in a large tourism company in Juneau that depends on wildlife viewing on land and water in Southeast Alaska, we know that successful tourism is directionally proportional to maintaining the local forests. Our forests are much more valuable through eternity if left standing, compared to a short-term gain from logging.

Again, I'm for Alternative 1, prohibiting further road building for logging in our nation's most sacred jewel, the Tongass National Forest.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PHILLIP GRAY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PHILLIP GRAY: My name is Phillip Gray. I live at Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I've lived in Juneau for over 50 years. I don't have a prepared statement, so I'm just going from memory. I worked for Fish and Game for over 20 years, about 17 to 18 years as a coho research biologist studying cohos throughout Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan. We did some of the first studies on ages of coho that were done, and we also did tagging of juvenile cohos to study harvest rates, migration routes, and timing.

So I've spent a lot of time on the ground in unlogged areas, and I know a lot about coho salmon and what they require. And I've also been in some areas that have been pretty heavily logged, where the areas have been pretty well destroyed.

The first one I remember was over in a place called Iris Meadows in Sitka where Fish and Game had proposed a transplant. It was just a beautiful area. And the commercial fishermen over there saw so much mud coming out of the streams they called up Fish and Game and said, "You guys better get over here and look at this."

So we traveled over there and went through the area, and it looked like it had been bombed. I mean, I remember one place where the whole hillside had slid off into a lake. We tried walking up one of the streams, and it was kind of an unstable pumice soil. And that had slid into the stream, so it was almost knee deep with all the soil that had slid into the stream. So that was one of my first experiences with clearcut logging.

And I also -- personally, myself -- I rely on the old-growth forest here for fishing and for deer hunting. One of my friends and I went deer hunting down in Whitewater Bay on Admiralty Island, which used to be one of Ralph Young's favorite bear hunting areas. We started out going through the logged area, which turned out to be almost impassible, because you fall into big holes, and you could spear yourself on some of the logging debris; so it was

dangerous walking there.

And we got on the logging road that went up towards the mountain we wanted to hunt, and it was quite a ways. We walked 7 miles through this logging road. We never saw a single deer or any sign in 7 miles. I guess we saw one mayor. It was pretty tough walking. The alders had grown up pretty thick on this road. But in 7 miles, no sign of any life -- no deer or nothing. As soon as we stepped out into the old growth at the end of 7 miles and up in the headwaters, we started seeing deer sign all over. So that was another experience that convinced me that old-growth logging is dangerous and seriously damaging to both fish and deer.

Coho salmon require -- they're found in almost all little tiny streams and tributaries all over Southeast Alaska. Just little streams that you can almost step across or can step across seem to be some of the most important ones. They are found in marshes and sloughs and lakes and all these little tributaries, and they're seriously damaged by logging. There is no way you can avoid that. Putting roads in and old-growth logging just is not compatible with good-faith production.

So I'm in favor of that Alternative 1, keeping the roadless rule in place. I don't approve of any old-growth logging or roads in any more of the old-growth areas in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BOB SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BOB SCHROEDER: Thank you so much for being here and supporting protection of the Tongass. My name is Bob Schroeder, S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. I live in zip code 99801. My Tlingit name is Chakeen. I'm Takdeintaan, Raven's Nest House from Hoonah.

I'm also a SEACC board member, and I sit on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for subsistence. Much of my career has been working on the subsistence issue, and that's what I'll focus my comments on this evening.

Basically, the DEIS is extremely disrespectful to indigenous people. The DEIS, for those of you who have looked through it, includes an extremely thin depiction or acknowledgment of tribes, traditional territory, or culture. It also does not describe subsistence uses of the Tongass National Forest in any great detail.

And for those of you who may not be familiar with that literature, it's really deep. The Forest Service itself has spent easily \$1 million in documenting subsistence uses in the Tongass National Forest, which includes estimates of harvest levels of fish and wildlife in all the subsistence communities in the region, mapping of subsistence use territories, and mapping of Kwaan and clan territories.

This is a very serious NEPA failing, a National Environmental Policy Act failing, in that what a NEPA document is supposed to do is tell you what you know about the land or the territory that's under review.

I've had the occasion to be at a number of so-called subsistence hearings and have spoken to some of my colleagues who have been at others of these hearings. To say that the hearings held in communities have been overwhelmingly in favor of the No-Action Alternative doesn't do it justice. I mean, there's not a single person who shows up saying, "What we really need in Hoonah, what we really need in Angoon, what we really need in Kake are a lot more roads." Nobody is saying this. And these are people who have also had their experience with logging and logging on Native corporation land and also need jobs to survive. So this response has been really overwhelming in keeping the roadless rule as it is.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the technicalities of the evaluation of subsistence, because this is kind of a special law. Subsistence is protected by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, Section 8. And under Section 810 -- this gets a little wonky. Excuse me. Section 810 directs Federal agencies as to what they're supposed to do if they're doing a land use action that may significantly restrict subsistence uses.

Now, those are kind of weird terms. What does that mean? That means that if you're going to do something on the land, on federal land, that looks like it may have an effect on subsistence uses, you have to analyze that and come to a determination of significant restriction, or they used to call it FONSI. I don't know if anyone can guess what that means. That's a Finding Of No Significant Impact. So this is all in Forest Service procedures as to how you approach a plan that is a land use action.

In this particular plan, the DEIS for changing the roadless rule really doesn't do this, so it does not analyze subsistence data. It doesn't present subsistence data, and it does not come up with a finding, as required by Forest Service procedures, of significant or no significant impact.

The reason why that's so important is that in Forest Service procedures, subsistence hearings can only be held after you do this step. And that's kind of logical, because if you were doing something and there was no significant impact, you don't need to have hearings, because there isn't any significant impact. But if you do, you go and have hearings to decide whether or not this is real, whether the analysis was correct, and you want to hear from people in that case.

The hearings that were held throughout Southeast Alaska were fatally flawed, because they did not present any finding that people could respond to. And in that respect, they completely violate the Forest Service's own procedure and a clear and obvious reading of ANILCA Section 810, which is the governing law in this case.

So for these reasons, I believe that the DEIS is fatally flawed and will need to be completely redone before it can be considered just on the subsistence grounds.

The next thing that happens after you have hearings is that the deciding officer -- in this case, that would be Secretary Perdue -- would need to -- if they decide to go ahead with an action, would need to decide that this is somehow necessary. And that's a pretty steep jump, because we have all the people in our regions saying that, "Boy, we really don't want this at all." And so to come out with a finding that it was necessary to do so after holding a bunch of hearings where people say, "Boy, we don't want any change to this law at all" would be a real steep step.

Let's see what else I have here.

I think the DEIS needs to be completely withdrawn. We need to show respect for indigenous cultures. We will point out that Native people have been caretakers of the land on which we walk for thousands of years, and that it's basically the failed fossil capitalism that has us in the fix that we're in, both in the Tongass and with respect to

the climate emergency that we face.

Everyone here appears to support the No-Action Alternative, and I support a modified No-Action Alternative. And the reason it needs to be modified is that the inventory of roadless areas is incorrect and it omitted a number of areas, specifically approximately 150,000 acres of forest land that was not roaded but had already been designated for harvest under the pulp company contracts. And so that land still had not been roaded, but it does not appear in the roadless inventory.

Secondly, I believe that since we're going through this exercise at great public expense and calling on a great involvement of people of Southeast Alaska, that I really think that we shouldn't just settle for the existing roadless rule, but we need to, as I said, include the areas that were erroneously omitted from the roadless inventory.

And I think we should examine whether or not, once an area has a road, does that mean that it endlessly is a roaded area? If something had a road put in it in 1975 and nothing has happened there, maybe that's a roadless area as well. I think we need a lot more than the current roadless inventory to be covered by the roadless rule.

That's my testimony. Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY RICHARD FARNELL
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

RICHARD FARNELL: My name is Richard Farnell, R-I-C-H-A-R-D F-A-R-N-E-L-L, and my zip code 99802.

First of all, I'd like the Forest Service to explain why they're violating my First Amendment rights by not taking testimony from my community that has the majority of citizens in Southeast Alaska, but they will take testimony from very small communities. This is the justification that the U.S. Supreme Court used in approving the Citizens United lawsuit that destroyed American democracy, so I would think that they would at least allow me to testify in my own community. But please provide me with the justification that you're using for that.

Secondly, keep all existing roadless areas in the Tongass in the existing roadless rule for the Tongass. I want all roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest to remain in the current national roadless rule jurisdiction. In other words, Alternative 1.

I've recently made a \$200,000 investment in ability to access roadless areas of the Tongass for hiking, backpacking, trail bike riding, as well as marine-based kayaking and skiffing. These have occurred or will occur on all areas that are currently roadless in the Tongass National Forest. I'm optimistic about my ability to enjoy recreation. I depend on these activities for health and sanity in the era of fake news, continuous lying by the president of the United States and high-level elected officials, and lying by representatives of resource extraction industries to be able to subvert the will of the public.

Secondly, the process being undertaken by the Forest Service and the Citizens Advisory Committee is

unnecessary. It subverts the intent of the Tongass Timber Reform Act, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling against the state control of roadless designations, and the recently revised management provisions of the Tongass Land Management process. The proposed process, as stated in the press release, has the intent to develop a state-specific roadless rule that establishes a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics in the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction activities determined by the state to be necessary for forest management.

This intent is illegal. The State of Alaska is not responsible for managing lands on the Tongass National Forest; the federal government is. So the entire intent of this process is without legal basis. In addition, the 2006 U.S. District Court ruling on the subject rejected a move to allow states to designate roadless areas on federal lands.

Secondly, the stated goals of conserving roadless area characteristics while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction and reconstruction are in complete conflict with one another, showing that the intent of this process is not clearly thought out.

Fourth, the members chosen for the Citizens Advisory Committee overwhelmingly represent the resource extraction industry and do not include important stakeholder groups who use the forest, such as tourism, hunters, anglers, and backcountry recreationalists. In addition, the scientists who know about the physical and biological health of the forest are also absent from this committee. Therefore, this committee is not representative of forest uses and is inadequate to objectively review proposals for roadless area changes.

Fifth, the choice of the Forest Service of Alternative 6th in the draft roadless rule, full exemption of the Tongass from the 2001 roadless area conservation rule, fails to account for the vital role that the Tongass National Forest plays in carbon sequestration of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, the major cause of catastrophic climate change, C-3 -- I'm inventing a new term here -- that is occurring to our planet. The ability of forests such as the Tongass to sequester carbon within the body of old-growth forest means that this characteristic of the undisturbed Tongass forest should be given the highest priority over all other users and uses due to the emergency created by CO2-produced climate change.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, report of October 2018 maps out four pathways to achieve a 1.5-degree centigrade maximum atmospheric concentration CO2 level. Reforestation is an essential part of all four strategies. Think of all the jobs that the U.S. Forest Service could create with a replanting program in the areas of the Tongass already damaged from commercial logging, and such a program could help to sequester carbon as well.

Finally, I would request, Secretary Perdue, for you to get a proper perspective on the choice that you're making for these alternatives, you need to visit the moon, and you need to look back at earth and get a view of earth as it is right now, because should you continue with the proposal that you've already stated, this planet is no longer going to be viable and inhabitable. And then you can come back home, and you'll have a better perspective.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CARL REESE
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CARL REESE: I'm Carl Reese, C-A-R-L R-E-E-S-E, 99801.

So I moved to Juneau in 2004, and so I've been here for -- I guess that would be 15 years. And I've done a lot of mountain climbing, fishing, kayaking, just the stuff that is around to enjoy. This place is an amazing place to be.

But I'm going to kind of rewind to about 2001, when I was in a conversation with some people. I was in graduate school, just getting out of it. I'm a fisheries biologist. I had just finished a master's degree, and I was talking to some people. And I had just also got a job running a salmon weir in Northern California on the Trinity River. And one of the people that had lived there a long time came up to me and said, "You know, you're just documenting the extinction of these things; right?"

And I thought, "Well, no." It was like, "No, look. Those coho salmon, the silver salmon, they're threatened now. We can't kill them. We can't eat them. We can't do anything other than watch them blink out," which will happen because you could actually go around and look at different tributaries. And the tributaries, some of them had coho in them, but a fair number of them didn't, like 90 percent.

And you could also track that around into the road network and find that the ones that -- and this is actually documented across the northwest, so this is not some new thing, that water quality, fish habitat tend to track pretty strongly with land use. Heavily logged-off areas have -- the mud comes down. Usually it's okay; right? I mean, it's not okay right at first, but it seems like it's going to be. And then the stumps start to fall off the hillsides. A bunch of things like that, just sort of -- and then there's a big storm and things just -- and the whole hill goes out. The next thing you know, you're not seeing any coho in that drainage, and you may not see any of the other species that were there either. You know, in this case, we're talking about king salmon and steelhead.

So, yeah. So I got this e-mail in late 2003 saying "You could apply to be a researcher at UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks in Juneau." I didn't know. So I thought, "I'm doing this." Because you know what? There are fish up here, like we're not documenting the demise of fisheries; we're documenting healthy stuff, and that's how it's supposed to be.

And we're supposed to be -- is his name Perdue? He's supposed to be managing healthy forests, managing a cultural benefit that we can all enjoy forever, and it's extremely shortsighted to just kind of log this stuff off. We don't really think, most of us, how rare what we have is, worldwide.

People have mentioned climate change over and over and over again. Well, that's true. I don't want to revisit it that much, but a carbon model -- it's already done. But the number of places that have this

kind of intact forest you can count on two hands in the world, and we're going to sell that out so that we can pay logging companies nickels on dollars to cut it all down. And then if history tells us anything, they're just going to take those logs and ship them to somewhere else. They don't even mill them here most of the time. So it's extremely shortsighted. It's extremely bad planning for reasons that I hadn't even thought about until I got here.

Of course building a road network is going to introduce invasive species. I'm not an invasive species specialist, but you don't have to be to know that, and there are papers out there showing this. So if you have a science degree in botany, you probably can follow all those plants moving around.

So, anyway, I advocate for the No-Action Alternative, and that would be Alternative 1. Thanks.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY JULIE KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

JULIE KOEHLER: My name is Julie Koehler, J-U-L-I-E, K-O-E-H-L-E-R, 99802.

I have used the Tongass National Forest since 1985 for recreation, hunting, fishing, berry-picking, kayaking, and on and on. From my college education in fish and wildlife management, work as a naturalist, work as a biological technician, and my personal use of the forest over all these years, I understand the ecology of an old-growth forest and what happens after it's logged. Therefore, I support Alternative 1, the No-Action Alternative.

Like many hundreds of other Southeast Alaskans, I have spoken numerous times over the decades in favor of keeping Tongass old growth standing and intact. Forest Service officials know from the studies done by many, many researchers that keeping old growth stands intact is what needs to be done to protect our Fish and Wildlife resources and ensure their sustainability.

So no need for me to review what has already been pointed out by countless professionals and those of us who know this forest. Instead, I'm going to call out this whole proposal to exempt the Tongass from the roadless rule for what it is, a bald-faced sham, to end-run the wishes of the people who live here and who have had enough of the Forest Service and the State of Alaska trying to liquidated the old growth.

At the Forest Service's November 4th shameful and shameless dog and pony show on this proposal, we were told that exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule won't change how the forest is managed and moving toward the logging of second growth. If that were the case, then why is this exemption being proposed? It is a guise to do old-growth logging through road building.

Alternative 6, minimum impact? Ha. We all know that isn't so. We all know that the guise of this roadless rule exemption is eventually going to end up -- actually probably pretty quickly end up revising the Tongass Land Management Plan so it can incorporate this change and increase the old growth harvest level. And we all know it's a back-door entry into the Chugach National Forest. Our old growth is more valuable standing. Let's keep it standing. Alternative 1. No action.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY DAVID LENDRUM
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

DAVID LENDRUM: Good evening. My name is David Lendrum. I live in Juneau. L-E-N-D-R-U-M. I get my mail at 99803.

My worry about roads in the Tongass is that when you cut the trees down and you expose the ground, no matter what you might think that's going to grow back, the richness and diversity will never return. When they logged in the Adirondacks two centuries ago, there are plots laying next to each other, one of which was never logged, one of which was logged 200 years ago. The species diversity is incomparable between the two sites. Things that vanish will never be seen again. Things that are only allowed, only endemic to a particular area and the rules that determine how things adapt to their areas mean that the specific zone that something lives in and grows up in and is adapted to and evolves to fill, that may never be seen again. If these roads penetrate the forest, penetrate the forest fabric, and as a consequence areas become logged, that's what we're looking at. We are looking at a tremendous loss in species diversity.

I was the Southeast representative on the Invasive Species Council for several years, and part of my work there involved looking at the DOT network. And it's very, very clear that invasive species spread by road maintenance activities. If you look at the map showing an overhead view of where we have located invasive species concentrations, they're the nexus of roadwork operations. They can't get there without a road. That's something

to always watch out for. The road doesn't just take us; other things go on it too. So I support Alternative 1.

Thank you very much.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY LISA GREENOUGH
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

LISA GREENOUGH: My name is Lisa Greenough, L-I-S-A G-R-E-E-N-O-U-G-H. And my zip code is 99821.

I'm here tonight to share with the Forest Service my views of the roadless rule, and I support Alternative 1 of keeping the Tongass free of roads that are not needed.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My family moved here in 1963. And I have a young son who is 23, who has grown up here in Juneau, and has had the benefit of living his formative years in a beautiful national forest, which is truly a national treasure. And we should take care of it as such.

Last year, last summer in Southeast, we experienced a drought. NOAA did determine that the entire region was in a drought, and it's been in a drought for about the last four years. For those of us who live here we've seen the needles dropping from the trees. The carbon sequestration in the Tongass is critical. It may be the balance that is needed to be preserved so that we don't tip over into another horrible global, you know, warming. We already are experiencing climate change, but by preserving and protecting the Tongass by not having roads can prevent us from experiencing increased climate change. We need to really protect it for that reason.

Our family enjoys fishing and hunting for deer. All of my family members love to hike, so the recreation potential for the Tongass is really important for the residents of Southeast Alaska, but now we're discovering that it's desirable for just about everybody else in the world. We have visitors coming from all over the U.S., particularly the southern U.S., and they're coming here in the summers for some reasons to escape the heat in the Lower 48. So we need to think about the Tongass as our refrigerator that's helping to keep the rest of the northwest cool and keeping the quality of life that we have in Southeast preserved, especially for future generations.

And I don't have grandchildren yet, but I hope to someday have grandchildren, and I want them to be able to have the experiences that I enjoyed as a child. And I want your grandchildren to have those experiences as well.

So I support Alternative 1, no roads in the Tongass. We don't need them, and the people in the country don't want roads in Alaska. It's not just people here in Juneau or in other Southeast communities; the people in this country do not want roads in Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KARLA HART
PRESENTED AT THE

JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

KARLA HART: My name is Karla Hart, K-A-R-L-A H-A-R-T. 99801 is my zip code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information. I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska with over 55 years of living in Southeast Alaska. Over that time I've hiked, rowed, paddled, watched wildlife, boated, and guided tourists and explored and volunteered from Yakutat down to Prince of Wales Island. I've seen a lot of land over a lot of time and seen a lot of changes.

Rolling back the roadless rule designation has impacts so broad and destructive that I, as a private citizen, do not have enough time to personally analyze and respond to every detail. By reference I support and include all of the 117 pages of comments submitted by the professionals at the Alaska Wilderness League, National Wildlife Foundation, et al., including Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, of which I'm a proud member.

My reasons are varied and many. Climate change -- as mentioned, the science is solid. Climate change is happening, and the Tongass has immense global value for carbon sequestration. Leave the old growth alone. Leave the roadless areas intact and undisturbed.

Ecological values. We don't even know what we don't understand or misunderstand. No volume of analysis in an environmental document today can predict what people will know and value tomorrow. Looking back just a few decades shows the ongoing learning curve. Do no harm. Leave the roadless areas roadless. These areas extend from the presently glacier-covered rock through alpine, subalpine, various forests zones, and stages of growth down to tidewater and the unique uplifting margins of the archipelago. Complex, understudied exploitation of these areas is not in the best interests of the Tongass or of the present and future generations of people, wildlife, animals, and plants that will live here.

Invasive species are a particular concern of mine, and I shared some at the Forest Service's public meeting but not hearing. I've seen so many new invasive species coming into the region and spreading and spreading and spreading. And volunteering with the Forest Service, I've gone out and pulled weeds and spent ten days at a time in the wilderness with teams pulling weeds and seeing that it's like putting your little finger in a dike that's collapsing.

Right now the roadless areas are fairly safe from invasive species because there aren't a lot of ways for the invasives to get in. If we leave them alone, they can stay relatively safe. We do not have the resources -- the national forest does not have the resources to inventory the invasives, much less to protect them.

One more point, and then I'll send the rest in my written comments.

Mining. Their analysis claims that this isn't going to have much benefit for mining, and yet I saw a couple of key mining people at the public meeting that the Forest Service had in Juneau before. It made me wonder what's up. The Forest Service specifically says, with their very carefully worded language, that the 1872 mining law already allows them to access the roadless areas. So it says, "Changes in roadless management are therefore not expected to affect existing or future locateable mine exploration or mining activities in the forest."

It doesn't mean it can't make it a lot cheaper and easier for them to get their permits and to go in and not have to do things that take care of the land. They don't detail that, and I am suspicious that we're giving up a lot without

even knowing it. The same with leasable mines and their language there. They're not being transparent with the public on what's happening. And I'll leave it there.

Thanks.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY ELAINE SCHROEDER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ELAINE SCHROEDER: Name is Elaine Schroeder, E-L-A-I-N-E S-C-H-R-O-E-D-E-R. My zip code is 99801.

I'm the co-chair of 350 Juneau, Climate Action for Alaska, which is an affiliate of 350.org, an

international organization dedicated to mitigating the climate crisis. Our board supports the retention of the roadless rule, and specifically for its positive impact on carbon sequestration.

According to the DEIS, the Tongass may store an estimated 601 to 650 million U.S. tons of above-ground carbon. This is equivalent to 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Needless to say, this is a lot of carbon and carbon dioxide equivalents.

Data cited in the DEIS is old, and more recent studies on forest carbon sequestration have not been examined, which is a serious defect of the DEIS. 350 Juneau believes that carbon sequestration needs to be considered as the best use of the Tongass National Forest. Enhanced carbon sequestration is required in light of the October 2018 International Panel on Climate Change report and the November 2018 National Climate Assessment Report. These documents are cited but their stark conclusions are not discussed in the DEIS, which needs to address how the change in the roadless rule would affect carbon sequestration, considering the global need for climate emergency amelioration.

The DEIS also makes no attempt to provide quantitative data on carbon capacity -- past, present, and future. This is a clear failing of the DEIS since it does not present best available data on this topic. In place of actual data, the DEIS launches into inconclusive, discursive discussion that befuddles the obvious fact that removing large quantities of timber from the Tongass National Forest reduces the carbon carrying capacity of this forest.

So given the importance of carbon sinks and carbon storage in the context of global heating, the omission of any of substantive analysis and quantification is unconscionable. The DEIS' discursive discussion obfuscates the effects of timber harvest in the Tongass by refusing to accurately report known and settled science on the role of forests in capturing and restoring carbon. The tone of this document edges on a denial of settled science.

And to reiterate, 350 Juneau supports a No-Action Alternative.

Thanks.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY BART KOEHLER
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

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BART KOEHLER: My name is Bart Koehler. I'm the former executive director of SEACC twice over and currently a board member. I live here in Juneau. Zip code, 99802. I need to spell my name -- B-A-R-T K-O-E-H-L-E-R.

I'm going to sing my testimony tonight, and hopefully you'll join me in the chorus of this. Before I do that, I have to recite my favorite quote from Wally Hickel, which was "If you don't have roads, you can't get anywhere." Okay. Well, that was on a radio program. The guy who had called in had said, "Well, I don't see that as a problem. I live in Cordova. I get along fine in my boat and by ferry."

Anyway, the way this song goes -- key of D -- and I have to read the words so I don't mess this up too badly. (Singing.) I was standing in the Tongass. What did I see? A forest full of giant trees running to the sea. We need to stand up for our old growth, keep those logging roads away. Let's stand up for the trees and keep the roadless rule today.

Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Save those trees today. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass, keep the roadless rule today.

Can you all join me in that chorus one more time? Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. One more time. Stand up, stand up. Stand up, stand up. Stand up for the Tongass. Keep the roadless rule today. Keep the roadless rule today, Sonny Perdue.

Thank you.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY KRISTINE TROTT
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

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KRISTINE TROTT: Kristine Trott, K-R-I-S-T-I-N-E T-R-O-T-T. 99801.

I've been here -- I moved up to Juneau in 1978. I sailed up here with my to-be hubby in a trimaran we built. And as we sailed along, we saw places where they had clearcut forest in the Tongass and the devastation it left, and we'd see mass wasting because there was a lot of logging done on too steep of land.

And then when we got here, we moved out the road where I live, and we have an old cannery site. We would go sailing all around Southeast, and I've seen and been in the marvelous forests that are all throughout Alaska. And they are -- like even on the Shelter Island, you can go on the east side of Shelter Island and up into the woods there, and it's like a cathedral. And I'm going to -- I mean, that's my church in this world.

But I'm going to read some of my outline that I've done. We need to keep the roadless rule in all of Tongass and in all of Alaska. There is no exception. It was put in place for a very strong reason. It's protecting wildlife habitat because the habitat is being lost or degraded at an alarming rate. It's for protecting the species, because we're losing many species, and we know that diversity is critical for a high quality of life. And it's for saving wildlands. It is important for humanity to have wildlands to get back to, because that wild land holds a lot of species that have not even been found yet that can benefit humanity even, besides benefiting themselves.

Diversity is critical to a healthy life. Saving wildlands is also important because of the unique and special places that are hurt by having roads into them. There is too much easy access, and there are many people who haven't got very good values. I have so many times cleaned up garbage that's been dumped, appliances, dirty diapers, things like that left out in the wilderness of all things. I have hiked many of the mountains down in Washington and California, and when there are roads, you find trash.

And in sailing around Southeast, we've gone to Prince of Wales Island and been in logging communities there, and Prince of Wales has lots of roads on it. There are people who live in those communities who think it's their private hunting ground, and they can go out and hunt deer any time of year that they like. And I was there in July and personally saw some fellows from that logging camp come in with two deer in the back of their pickup in July, and my husband had to practically hogtie me, because I was going to go and accost those guys. I was furious. But you have roads in there, and then you get these scofflaws in there who think it's their right to go shoot whenever they want. And, you know, I can't abide that.

The cost of building roads in Alaska is prohibitive. It is economically unjustified because they are giving it away to the logging companies or the mining companies, and it's public money to build these roads for private industries.

The environmental damage that those roads do is incredible, and just driving out our "Road to

Nowhere" we see for that mile and a half, I think it is, the incredible footprint this road has put on the land there, how deep the rock base is that they blasted and filled. It's just mind-boggling. And, you know, just think of all the creatures and everything that were put underneath all that rock that were killed.

The land belongs to the public, not to these private industries, and the public doesn't need to subsidize private interests -- logging, mining, oil extraction.

And last but not least, our big forests are a major carbon sink, to help keep the carbon in the ground and in the trees the way it should be, to help fight global warming. My daughter lives down in Texas, and I have seen the damage done when they ravage and pave and everything else, and they flood beyond anything. And she has a pasture where the old plains grass is left and thick. And the cattle and horses in those fields -- they're not flooded because that sponge holds the soil. They have deep roots. That's carbon in the soil. They soak up the water.

You know, the same thing here. We have trees that need to stay upright to help our carbon sequestration so that the global warming and climate change is as mitigated as we can help to do. So I'm basically quite against doing anything but keeping that roadless rule in place, and Alternative 1 is the one I choose. Thank you.

Additional testimony provided after other speakers:

KRISTINE TROTT: In spite of homesteading, we also lived and worked abroad for ten years, returning back every summer. We've worked from Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, China, Russia, and I've been in the eastern United States as well. Every time we came back to our home in Juneau, the air quality was incomparable. That is

because of the intact forest and the deep connection with the mycorrhiza -- the connection with our forests and trees, which are all interlaced with their roots holding each other up, and the mycorrhiza can live amongst that and bring the nutrients to the trees, but they also give out healthful aerosols, which is, I think, a very large part of the healthfulness of this forest.

I've been in New Zealand forests. I've been in Thailand forests. I've been in forests in Russia and in Finland, and none of those forests have the same healthy air, clean air. Every time we came back to Juneau it was a breath of fresh air, literally, and there is no alternative for this clean air.

I grew up in Washington state and hiking and climbing in the mountains, and on the Olympic peninsula, and what they have done on the Olympic peninsula is a travesty. It cannot happen here. It's so important to keep these forests. I use the forests for subsistence as well. My kids have all grown up here. And I've seen the damage done in California and in Texas, and I don't want it to happen here. I do support Alternative 1.

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[Position]