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Comments:

Alaska is blessed with an abundance of some of the most spectacular wild lands in our nation. Indeed, except for such regulations as those proscribing roadless construction in this, this blessed state would be criss-crossed with roads, stopping places, businesses and simply a massive invasion of money that will effectively rape this pristine wonder including the Tongass National Forest. The idea of ravaging some of the most precious old-growth forests in our nation. This gift is not something to be tossed aside as just "another" stretch of forest. It is and must be so much more than that. I understand that business must play a real and positive role in our growth but it is abominable that we would sacrifice every wondrous piece of our land to those interests. And the answer why is so simple. Once the roads appear, the loggers will follow, which I presume is the primary motivation for this "exemption". This is not right. This is NOT right, because once we have done so; it will be impossible to rebuild what we have sacrificed on an alter that does not need to be built. I beg you to consider these precious gifts such as the Tongass as part of our national heritage and they are as much worth preserving as any statue honoring any Civil War soldier who fought to preserve slavery. Indeed, the Tongass and Alaska's wild lands are I would posit are inestimably of MORE value. Again, remember that once you breach this wall, you will never be able to rebuild it. It will be gone to waste for convenience stores, gas stops, homes and more and more of the same. The only thing that you can guarantee once this protection is lost is that it will never be restored. Do the right thing. Protect Alaska from those who would turn it into just another mass of roads and eyesores that will never surpass the precious beauty this state provides right now. Finally, as you must know all of this ravaging of this state must confront a winter that has already twice defeated the best efforts of petroleum interests to profit from your resources simply because they were there. Accept that the Tongass is worth more than ensuring it can be ravaged and criss-crossed by moneyed interests for a fraction of a year. Please protect this state from those who would do so.