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Comments:

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to convey our dismay over your participation in dismantling the Roadless Rule on the Tongas National Forest. As you well know, the Roadless Rule helps keep the Tongass intact and healthy by preventing the construction of needless and extraordinarily expensive logging roads. The Rule has also helped by encouraging habitat for wildlife, especially our important salmon, which are already stressed by other factors. These salmon provide jobs for many in our region through fishing, fish processing, sport fishing and tourism. The timber industry, in decline not from loss of old-growth timber to harvest but from market and labor changes, contributes less than 1% to Southeast Alaska's economy.

We urge you to listen not only to timber interests and powerful political voices, but to those of us who have lived and recreated in the Tongass for decades.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Demerjian
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