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Comments:

As a writer, conservationist and environmentalist, I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. There are so few wild spaces in our country we cannot afford to open these wildernesses. With climate change impacts lurking just beyond our immediate future, we need all the forest we can get to help sequester heat trapping gases like carbon dioxide. I am writing to you to request that you maintain support of the Roadless Rule.

The Roadless Rule was adopted with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including the Tongass National Forest. Rolling back the Roadless Rule in Alaska would ignore overwhelming public support, put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, and threaten access to safe drinking water. It would be a step away from sustainable development and would run counter to the interests of Alaskans and taxpayers. I urge the Forest Service to maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska and put the public interest above timber industry profits.

Thank you for considering my comments.