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First name: Bob

Last name: Janes

Organization: Gastineau Guiding Company

Title: President

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: Bob@gguiding.com

Phone:

Comments:

October 15, 2018

Dear Tongass Roadless Rule Team,

As a tour operator at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area for the past 23 years, my company, Gastineau Guiding, has provided a short connection to Tongass trails, vistas, and wildlife to nearly 500,000 visitors.

Nearly all of these were cruise ship passengers, in Juneau for only a few short hours. While they came from different parts of the globe, they expressed one thing in common: they came to Alaska to experience wilderness and wildlife.

"What was wilderness to them" we asked. "A place untouched, undeveloped, and in its natural state", they answered.

Roadless areas in Alaska provide this kind of emotional experience, even if it is only seen by many from the deck of a cruise ship.

To reform the Roadless Rule at this time would be to enter with uncertainty a new relationship with the very heart and soul of the experience our visitors crave.

Everyone is aware of the revenue associated with tourism. What we may not always think about is the immense value, both economic and social, of a place which could remain "untouched " for generations to come.

Please, consider these values, both economic and personal, when addressing the Roadless Rule. Consider developing more roads in the areas surrounding existing communities, so that the people living there can benefit from National Forest resources. Refrain from developing more roads in untouched coastal and mountain areas, for these provide timeless benefits that we will be able to offer visitors and our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Janes, President

Gastineau Guiding Company

Juneau, Alaska