



December 16, 2019

Attn: Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue  
US Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen  
Tongass Deputy Forest Supervisor Troy Heithecker  
Regional Forester David E. Schmid

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We, the Petersburg Borough Assembly, are expressing our discontent with the process that is underway regarding the review of the Tongass Roadless Rule.

When this phase began in 2018 and public comment was taken, over 90% of those comments were in favor of the "no action alternative." In addition, there were multiple regulation paths with nuance that had begun to be developed by the Forest Service staff.

But none were presented as viable alternatives in the Roadless Rule meeting with Forest Service representatives on November 7, 2019 in Petersburg. Instead it was made clear that this decision had been made in a unilateral manner, similar to when the Roadless Rule was originally implemented.

We believe this is an ineffective way of crafting good public policy. It is our position that prioritizing of taking active public comment is the first step in this important process.

Our region needs a diversified system that supports a variety of livelihoods in a sustainable way with future generations in mind. We believe it is possible for a Tongass management plan that facilitates such a system and we take issue with the manner in which the review of the Roadless Rule is being approached.

We encourage our community members to share their thoughts on the Forest Service link provided: [akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us](mailto:akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us)

We ask that the Forest Service and Secretary of Agriculture listen.

Respectfully,

Mark Jensen  
Mayor

cc: Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Representative Young