

Debra Thompson

From: Jim Brennan <brennanalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 12:03 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Tongass Roadless Rule

I urge Assembly members to timely adopt the proposed resolution favoring adoption of the no action alternative stated in the EIS relating to the federal Administration's recent move to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. Reinstitution of clear cut logging practices in the old growth forests of Southeast Alaska would result in a federally subsidized, false economy which would harm real economies -- commercial fishing and tourism -- which are now more important than ever to the economic well-being of Petersburg. In a northern forest featuring very long rotation cycles, new clear cutting will result in dubious near term benefits at great long term costs to local residents and their businesses.

As you know, much of the Tongass lies within the boundaries of the Petersburg Borough, and is also within the boundaries of other Southeast Alaska Boroughs who may well pass similar resolutions opposing a blanket exemption to the Roadless Rule. Combined opposition from local Alaskan regional governments directly affected by an exemption may well influence federal policy makers, particularly where proponents in Wahington, D.C. may have assumed there would be full local support in a State that has ordinarily supported this Administration. I urge you to now make a clear statement to federal officials that the Petersburg Borough opposes a blanket Roadless Rule exemption.

As you may know, I was formerly an attorney for the Borough when Brennan and Heideman functioned as Borough attorney. I have since retired, have no affiliation with the new firm which now represents the Borough, and the views expressed in this message are entirely those of myself and not of the Borough's current legal counsel.

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