



December 11, 2019

Ken Tu

Interdisciplinary Team Leader

Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

Submitted electronically to www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

Dear Mr. Tu,

On behalf of the Washington brewing and malting community, we write to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule. Granting Alaska an exemption for the Roadless Rule would set a dangerous precedent that could lead to excessive logging and road construction in wild forests across the United States that are critical sources for clean water.

As breweries, brewpubs, hop growers, and maltsters, we understand the incredible value in protecting our national forests as sources for clean water. Water is the number one ingredient in beer, a growing economic force here in Washington. The Washington craft brewing economy accounts for \$9 billion annually, is a driving force for tourism and economic development in both small and large communities and employs over 6,000 people. Additionally, Washington produces 75% of our nation's hops, contributing greatly to the national beer economy of \$328 billion. Without access to clean water, our entire industry wouldn't exist. In many cases, the source of municipal water stems from headwaters

located in our national forest roadless areas, the same ones that would be affected if the Roadless Rule was eliminated.

Since 2001 the Roadless Rule has established itself as a bedrock conservation protection for our national forests. Originally intended to safeguard more than 58 million acres, the Roadless Rule limits costly and environmentally damaging roadbuilding and logging, helps protect taxpayers, and preserves wild, relatively intact roadless landscapes across the National Forest System. By protecting high value conservation lands, the Roadless Rule provides numerous benefits including protecting clean and safe drinking water, supporting world class and local outdoor recreation opportunities, and protecting wildlife habitat that supports many threatened, endangered and sensitive species. National forest roadless areas are especially prized for the clean water they supply to communities, as more than 60 million Americans get their drinking water from national forests.

Furthermore, Alaska's Tongass National Forest contains some of the largest remaining tracts of temperate old-growth rainforest in the world, helping make it the country's single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. Given that parts of Alaska are warming at roughly twice the rate of the rest of the planet, maintaining an intact Tongass ecosystem, including continued protections for roadless areas, can help provide climate change solutions for Alaska and support international climate efforts. As business owners, we understand the need to invest in the protection of reliable and clean water as well as supporting the overall health of the environment we all share.

The Roadless Rule was the product of more than two years of deliberation, more than one million public comments, and over 600 public meetings. Of the comments received, 95% voiced support for strong roadless area protections. Now in seeking to eliminate protections, zero public meetings have been scheduled in the lower 48 states. These are public lands for all Americans, and the decisions made in the Tongass could affect Washington next. Nearly 2 million acres in Washington State are protected under the Roadless Rule, including South Quinault Ridge in the Olympic National Forest, the Dark Divide in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and Lena Lake in the Olympic National Forest – all magnificent places that shape our legacy as a wild and green state. We know that these sweeping “exemptions” to the Roadless Rule will not stop with Alaska. Others will follow, as Utah already has expressed intent to do.

We would like to again state our strong opposition to any changes to the Roadless Rule in Alaska or elsewhere. As small business owners who rely on clean water, value water security, and value great tasting beer, we urge you to maintain the Roadless Rule and its vital protections for the National Forest System and the Tongass.

Respectfully,

Sara Nelson
Co-Founder/Owner
Fremont Brewing
Seattle, WA

Jack Lamb
CEO & Owner
Aslan Brewing Co.
Bellingham, WA

Phil & Alyssa Neumann
Co-Founders & Co-Owners
Mainstem Malt, SPC
Walla Walla, WA

Pamela Brulotte
Founder
Icicle Brewing Company
Leavenworth, WA

Becca Gray and Nate Schons
Owners
Island Hoppin' Brewery
Orcas Island, WA

Dan Lee
Founder
Odin Brewing Company
Tukwila, WA

Jason Shrum
Co-Owner
Bad Jimmy's Brewing
Seattle, WA

Jen Boyd
Owner
Cairn Brewing
Kenmore, WA

Matt Lawrence
Founder
Camp Colvos Brewing
Vashon, WA

Kelsey, Ben, Liz & Craig Curran
Owners
Watershed Pub & Kitchen
Seattle, WA

Mari and Will Kemper
Owners
Chuckanut Brewery
Bellingham, WA

Jeff Howell
Owner/Operations
Counterbalance Brewing Company
Seattle, WA

Kevin Quinn, Meghann Quinn, Kevin Smith and
Patrick Smith
Co-Owner/Co-Founder
Bale Breaker Brewing Company
Yakima, WA

Russell Everett
Brewmaster / Co-Founder
Bainbridge Brewing
Bainbridge Island, WA

Randy Embernate
Owner/ Head of Sales and Marketing
Hellbent Brewing
Seattle, WA

Mark Burr
Co-Founder | General Manager
Jellyfish Brewing Company
Seattle, WA

David Vitt
Owner / Founder
Kulshan Brewing Company
Bellingham, WA

Todd Owsley
Co-Owner
Farmstrong Brewing Company
Mt. Vernon, WA

Chris & Lori Engdahl
Founders and Owners
Lantern Brewing
Seattle, WA

Raymond Kwan
Director of Operations & Co-Founder
Lucky Envelope Brewing
Seattle, WA

Jon Gores
Sales Manager
Pike Brewing Co.
Seattle, WA

Debbie Chambers
Founder, Operations
Postdoc Brewing Company
Redmond, WA

Grant Bolt
President & Co-Founder
Matchless Brewing
Tumwater, WA

Alex Dittmar
Founder/President
Airways Brewing
Kent, WA

Brian Stan
Co-Founder
Old Stove Brewing
Seattle, WA

Haley Keller
Co-Owner, Finance & Retail Operations
Peddler Brewing Company
Seattle, WA

Andy Krakauer
General Manager
Two Beers Brewing Co.
Seattle, WA

Craig Christian
Founder
Rooftop Brewing Company
Seattle, WA

Jack Pflueger
Owner
Stones Throw Brewery
Bellingham, WA

James Goodman
Head Brewer
Elliott Bay Brewing Company
Seattle, WA

Erik Lindeman
Manager
La Conner Brewing Company
La Conner, WA

Jacob Young
Owner
Old Schoolhouse Brewery
Winthrop, WA

Lara Zahaba
Co-Owner | Marketing & Communications
Stoup Brewing
Seattle, WA

Jason Griggs
Owner
Dubtown Brewing Company
Renton, WA

James C. Green Jr.
Owner
North Fork Pizza & Brewing Inc.
Deming, WA

Chuck Watkins
Manager
Millwood Brewing Company
Millwood, WA

Jonathan Jull
Brand Manager
Boundary Bay Brewery
Bellingham, WA

Wayne Jehlik
Co-Owner and Head Brewer
Obec Brewing
Seattle, WA

Zac Olson
Taproom Manager
DRU BRU, LLC
Snoqualmie, WA