



Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

October 27, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you again for your January 20, 2025, Executive Order “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential.” Among the many other welcome policies included in that EO is your directive to remove the Tongass National Forest from the Clinton Administration’s 2001 Roadless Rule. Alaska understands that the Tongass does not stand alone and appreciates the Administration’s August 29, 2025, proposed rulemaking to remove the Roadless Rule from all the national forests except for Colorado and Idaho.

Your efforts with regard to the Roadless Rule are important because the Tongass is the focal point of environmental groups efforts to stop responsible use of America’s largest National Forest and many public lands across the United States. Unfortunately, while this Roadless Rule was revoked in your first Administration, it was re-instated by Biden on January 25, 2023. In order to ensure that this harmful Rule goes away permanently, Alaska asks that your Administration seek separate legislation to keep the Tongass open to roadbuilding and development by statute.

The Roadless Rule remains in effect on the Tongass today due to a stay of the State’s litigation against Biden’s 2023 reimposition while your Administration’s 2025 nationwide rulemaking goes forward. The nationwide rulemaking is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2026. We are concerned that the litigation and appeals that will follow completion of the rulemaking could last beyond your Administration and be rescinded again.

The Tongass is a rich rainforest with a vast timber resource. It is also one of the richest Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide (VMS) belts in North America, containing proven deposits of copper, zinc, silver, gold, cobalt, barite, and rare earth minerals (at Bokan Mountain). USGS studies and historical mining records show hundreds of past-producing mines from the early 1900s through 1943. Southeast Alaska’s geological system is vastly underexplored, due in large part to the lack of assured road access and site management assurance caused by the application

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

October 27, 2025

Page 2 of 2

of the 2001 Roadless Rule to the Tongass. The United States Geologic Survey (USGS) has estimated that there are billions of dollars of discovered and billions of dollars of undiscovered minerals on the Tongass.

We have water access to the archipelago of islands that make up the Tongass. We just need the certainty of road access to move drills and heavy equipment across the beach into the interior of those islands to access the mineral deposits. Legislation to make that happen would provide the certainty that investors need to fund the access to critical and rare earth minerals so important to national security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure

The following is an example of statutory language that would permanently exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the final rule and record of decision entitled “Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska,” 88 Fed. Reg. 5252 (January 27, 2023) is hereby rescinded, the final rule entitled “Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska,” 85 Fed. Reg. 68688 (October 29, 2020) is hereby enacted into law. The 2001 Roadless Rule shall not apply to the Tongass National Forest except by Act of Congress. The Secretary and Secretary of the Interior shall not manage or continue to manage, close, limit, or restrict access to, or resource development on National Forest lands in Alaska beyond those closures, limitations, and access restrictions to, and resource development of, multiple uses that were in effect on the day after passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990.”