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February 8, 2017

Neil MacKinnon
President

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

Joseph Kahklen
Secretary

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

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John Sandor
Scott Spickler
Karen Taug

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Annulment of Tongass Land Management Plan Revision and BLM
Eastern Interior Alaska Resource Management Plan

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan and Representative Young:

First Things First Alaska Foundation is organized to educate the people of Alaska concerning the function and importance of natural resource development to the livelihoods and quality of life, indeed, the economic future of all Alaskans.

The Tongass Land Management Plan Revision and BLM Eastern Interior Alaska Land Management Plan, which were promulgated during the waning days of the Obama administration, are detrimental – in fact disastrous – to reasoned resource development and hence the wellbeing of Alaskans.

The First Things First Alaska Foundation has been involved in the process by which the Tongass Land Management Plan was most recently revised. That plan as now adopted – and the similarly adopted BLM Eastern Interior Alaska Land Management Plan – are extremely detrimental to resource development by blocking access to mineral and timber resources so vital to our economy without serving a needed conservation purpose. It is imperative these plans be rescinded and the obligations honored for access to resources and their

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

thoughtful development which are incumbent upon the federal government through existing legislation and planning documents.

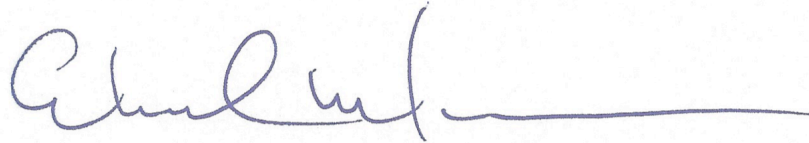
These two Plans are in fact “Rules” for purposes of the Congressional Regulatory Review Act (CRA). The Government Accounting Office (GAO) determined that the 1997 Tongass Plan was a “Rule” for CRA purposes. Accordingly, the Tongass Transition Plan and BLM Eastern Interior Plan are also “Rules” subject to the CRA process.

Two courses of action are recommended below, which we strongly encourage be implemented.

1. Request the Agriculture and Interior Department Secretaries write new Records of Decisions (RODs), which select the no-action alternative in both cases. That is, the old plan or policies would remain in place, and
2. Request the same agencies issue a report to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) stating the revised plans are new regulations at the earliest possible time.

We look forward to your action in this regard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil MacKinnon', followed by a long horizontal line.

Neil MacKinnon
Board President