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### **Alaska Wilderness League Applauds Introduction of Roadless Area Conservation Act**

Washington, D.C. - In response to today's introduction of the Roadless Area Conservation Act by Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Ruben Gallego, **Alaska Wilderness League's Alaska Director Andy Moderow issues the following statement:**

“Southeast Alaska’s economy is transitioning toward sustainability because a healthy, vibrant Tongass National Forest can provide for people today and in the future if we don’t trade it for short term gains. We support the Roadless Area Conservation Act. The Roadless Rule protects Tongass old-growth while also providing for community access, hydropower projects, utility connectors and other economic development projects when they serve a legitimate public interest.

“The request by the State of Alaska to create a state-specific rule in the name of ‘meaningfully addressing local economic and development concerns’ is just pretext for continuing to prop up an old-growth timber industry that can’t survive on its own. If we’re really willing to think long term, keeping the roadless rule in place will continue to help strengthen Southeast Alaska’s economy while maintaining the health of our forests and the communities and wildlife that depend on them. Thank you to Senator Cantwell and Representative Gallego for leading the charge to keep roadless protections in place.”

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*Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state’s land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska’s long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans’ quality of life.*



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