**“We applaud Senator Cantwell and all who have signed on as cosponsor to this simple, common sense bill to safeguard the most cherished areas of our national forests,”** said Adam Kolton, executive director of Alaska Wilderness League. **“The Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska supports billion dollar fishing and tourism industries and is home to iconic American wildlife like bald eagles and brown bears. We must ensure that these economic, wildlife and wilderness values are protected.”**

**"As Southeast Alaskans, we are grateful to Senator Cantwell for her leadership in protecting some of our wildest public lands, the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest. Senator Cantwell’s Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2018 illuminates the critical role the federal Roadless Rule plays in protecting among the most unique and spectacular forested lands in North America from unnecessary development for logging,”** said Meredith Trainor, Executive Director, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council. **“At a time of unprecedented attacks on our public lands, the Roadless Area Conservation Act will help Southeast Alaskans continue to protect both our growing tourism and fishery-based economy, and the wild spaces we fight for and cherish."**

**“This legislation is about preserving the relatively few remaining national forest lands not already fragmented by roads and logging activity. Protecting these undeveloped wildlands from the devastating effects of logging and roads safeguards habitat for thousands of wildlife species,”** said Jamie Rappaport Clark, President and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife. **“Thank you to Senator Maria Cantwell for her tireless work to protect our nation’s forests from unsustainable development, logging and other threats.”**

**"Senator Cantwell is taking action to permanently protect our country’s roadless forests and grasslands. Roadless forests are not just remote places on a map. They provide clean drinking water for more than 60 million Americans and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities for more than 240 million people. Our most sensitive wildlands deserve to be protected into the future,”** said Kirin Kennedy, Associate Legislative Director of Lands and Wildlife.

**"The Roadless Rule was wildly popular when it was adopted because Americans understand the value of protecting wild places,"** said Steve Blackledge, Senior Director of Environment America's conservation program. **"The only thing that's changed since 2001 is that our national forests need this protection more than ever. Kudos to Senator Cantwell for introducing this important bill."**

**“Long a champion of defending our wildest forest lands, Senator Cantwell and her colleagues deserve our thanks for standing strong and working to protect our forests from the assault of big-money interests all too happy to slash them. For nearly two decades, the Roadless Rule has survived withering attacks in the courts and administratively, and the threats have only escalated under the Trump Administration. That’s why it’s more important than ever that we enshrine the protections for these pristine forest lands in law,”** said Martin Hayden, Vice President of Policy and Legislation, Earthjustice. **“Wild forests and the clean water, wildlife, and recreation opportunities they offer are national treasures. Let’s save them for future generations – not turn them over to wealthy corporations.”**