

Under the new proposed NPRM, that would mandate further regulations, in air tours into the Misty Fjords National Monument, and the surrounding area of Ketchikan, Alaska, we might have to rename such a place. We receive anywhere in the amount of 140 inches of rain to 200 inches of rain a year and a good part of it is in the summer months. Last year we had the best season I have seen in Alaska in my 30 years of living here and we had 45 days of no rain however many days were overcast and flights would have been canceled, with such a new rule imposed. Southeast Alaska receives most on shore flows of weather which are, slow moving warm and cold fronts consisting of many cloudy days with rain. Our company alone flew over 20,000 tourists safely to the national monument last year, that does not account for the many operators of this area. Since you folks back their shut down all the timber jobs and curtailed the fishing industry to the point of none existence, we have only one resource left and its the people who come here and want to enjoy the vast landscapes, majestic mountains and beautiful water ways, of our area. In the 30 years of flying here I can say we have hurt not one person in the monument during our flights. We consistently train and maintain each pilot to give the utmost in safety and passenger comfort, if such a rule is imposed, many who come from all over the world will not see such a place. With air travel being one of the vital parts of our area the minimal impact is stressed, on a land that we call home. I would therefore ask careful considerations to your actions and the economic impact again, to an area that provides such a service not only to community but to the families that work in the aviation business, leave FAR part 136.1 (c) (3) as stated that, Alaska be exempt from such a rule or extend it until you can come up here and see for yourselves. There is no timber, or fishing jobs that we can fall back on, we have only 5 months of work in this area. If people had been complaining or we injured someone, I could understand the public need for such a rule, the case is, we have not. This is a Temperate Rain Forest, in the best case scenario, we already cancel 25% of the flights we offer, this restriction will increase that number. Thank you, for your consideration, Mark Easterly, Director of Operations