

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

As the 113th Congress comes to an end, we write to express our concern that the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was not reauthorized for fiscal year 2014. More than 700 counties and school districts across the country receive funding through the SRS program.

As you know, for more than 100 years, the Forest Service has shared 25 percent of timber revenues with rural counties to compensate them for federal ownership of lands, which cannot be taxed at the local level. Counties and school districts rely on these funds to help support critical services, including education and infrastructure projects. While timber harvest levels have dropped over the last two decades, Congress has recognized the need to live up to its obligations and continue to support these districts.

Unfortunately, the authorization for SRS lapsed in September 2013 and the last payments were distributed in April 2014. Failing to renew the SRS program will cause significant harm to the ability of rural and timber communities to provide basic services to their residents.

We urge you to work quickly, in a bipartisan fashion, to reauthorize, fund and make payments under SRS as early as possible in the next Congress ensuring that local governments across the country can access these essential funds.

Sincerely,



Rep. Derek Kilmer



Rep. Chris Stewart



Rep. Jared Huffman



Rep. Doug LaMalfa



Rep. Steve Daines



Rep. Peter DeFazio



Rep. Suzan DelBene



Rep. Mike Thompson



Rep. Paul Cook



Rep. Don Young



Rep. Kurt Schrader



Rep. Glenn 'GT' Thompson



Rep. Steven Palazzo



Rep. Denny Heck



Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham



Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick


Rep. Suzanne Bonamici


Rep. Steve Pearce


Rep. Raúl Labrador


Rep. Paul A. Gosar


Rep. Jim Costa


Rep. Mike Simpson


Rep. Tom McClintock


Rep. John Garamendi


Rep. Jason Chaffetz


Rep. Mark Takano


Rep. Ben Ray Luján


Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler

Raúl M. Grijalva

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva

Rick Larsen

Rep. Rick Larsen

Ann McLane Kuster

Rep. Ann McLane Kuster

Bob Goodlatte

Rep. Bob Goodlatte

David G. Valadao

Rep. David G. Valadao

Walter B. Jones

Rep. Walter B. Jones

Peter Welch

Rep. Peter Welch