



November 26, 2018

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Member, U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Member, U.S. Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 3654 – Secure Rural Schools Program

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your S. 3654 – the omnibus legislation that will finalize the federal government’s fiscal position for FY 2019. A key aspect of this legislation will keep critical services running in RCRC member counties. Specifically, S. 3654 reauthorizes the Secure Rural Schools Program (SRS) program for an additional year.

RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties. A large number of RCRC member counties have vast acres of federal forest land within their county and timber-related activities have been an integral part of these communities for decades. The SRS program provides California counties approximately \$26 million annually, of which nearly half will be forwarded to rural schools and the other half for road maintenance.

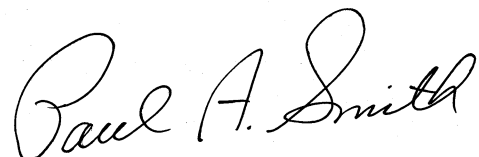
As you may know, Congress enacted the SRS program in 2000 to provide funding for rural counties and school districts to replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts due to a national decline in timber harvesting. In March 2018, Congress enacted a comprehensive 2018 federal spending plan, and, as part of that plan, reauthorized two years of SRS payments for FY 2017 and FY 2018. If Congress fails to renew this long-standing federal obligation to county governments for FY 2019, the expiration of SRS will create budgetary shortfalls for many of California’s forested counties.

RCRC appreciates your efforts for advancing the SRS program. We look forward to working with you to ensure a reauthorization of the SRS program occurs as well as efforts to find a permanent solution to the issue of federal land payments.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

PAUL A. SMITH
Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Member of the U.S. House Senate
The Honorable Kamala Harris, Member of the U.S. House Senate
The Honorable Doug La Malfa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Garamendi, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Doris Matsui, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Cook, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Costa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable David G. Valadao, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Devin G. Nunes, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives