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Siskiyou County urges Congress to reauthorize and fund Secure Rural Schools

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution urging Congress to reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. SRS funding, according to a press release from the board, mitigates the impact to county governments from the reduction of allowable timber harvesting production on federal forest lands.

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California's rural counties have come to rely on SRS funding – more than \$33 million statewide – to support public schools and critical county road programs, the release states.

“SRS funding is critical to Siskiyou County’s ability to provide services for our residents, and its immediate reauthorization should be of the utmost priority for Congress,” states Supervisor Michael Kobseff, who is a Rural County Representatives of California delegate. “In addition, it is time to look at a long-term, stable funding source for forested counties and schools to maintain vital programs and avoid an interruption in services and operations.”

Secure Rural Schools expired Sept. 30, 2013, resulting in a loss of funding in 2014 and future years to support critical programs in schools and counties across the United States, according to the release. “California’s forested counties and schools located within those counties are dependent upon federal revenue-sharing programs such as SRS for maintaining local roads, and for providing vital local services and programs.”

Siskiyou County has joined Rural County Representatives of California in a statewide effort to raise awareness about the importance of SRS funding for California’s rural counties, “and highlight how the lack of authorization impacts their ability to adequately and appropriately fund classroom instruction and improve local roads.”

About RCRC

The Rural County Representatives of California is a 34 member county strong service organization that champions policies on behalf of California’s rural counties. The RCRC is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the state and federal levels, and providing responsible services for its members to enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit rcrcnet.org and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter.

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