

# Madera County urges Congress to reauthorize and fund secure rural schools

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This week, the Madera 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). SRS funding mitigates the impact to county governments from the reduction of allowable timber harvesting production on federal forest lands. 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.

“SRS funding is critical to Madera County's ability to provide for our residents, and its immediate reauthorization should be of the utmost priority for Congress,” said David Rogers, Madera County supervisor and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) 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.”

SRS expired on September 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. 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.

Madera County joins RCRC in a statewide effort to raise awareness on 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.

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) 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](http://rcrcnet.org) and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter.

- RCRC

[http://www.sierrastar.com/2015/02/12/71898\\_madera-county-urges-congress-to.html?rh=1](http://www.sierrastar.com/2015/02/12/71898_madera-county-urges-congress-to.html?rh=1)