



October 7, 2025

Via Electronic Mail Only

Speaker Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
william.ball@mail.house.gov

Subject: Urgent Request for Reauthorization and Stabilization of Secure Rural Schools Funding

Dear Speaker Johnson,

The Tri-Counties (Siskiyou County, CA, Modoc County, CA and Klamath County, OR) urges the House to immediately reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, backfill last year's missed payment, and establish a permanent funding solution that provides long term stability for rural communities.

The Senate already passed SRS reauthorization unanimously, demonstrating bipartisan support and broad recognition of its importance. For our counties and schools, these payments are critical to sustaining essential services. The lapse in funding has created a severe financial cliff, jeopardizing the programs and infrastructure our residents rely on every day.

The expiration of this critical program threatens the financial stability of counties like ours, which contain millions of acres of publicly owned, federally managed forest lands that generate very limited timber harvest revenue and zero local property tax. These funds are essential for maintaining school programs, attracting and retaining qualified teachers, and ensuring students have the resources they need to succeed. SRS funding also supports law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency response services that safeguard our communities. In addition, it is vital for maintaining public roads and critical infrastructure already strained by limited budgets and heavy use.

As an example of the importance of this funding, the patrol function of the Klamath County, Oregon Sheriff's Office is 100% funded through SRS. Without reauthorization, the county is effectively being forced to defund its law enforcement services. The department is currently operating off reserves, but those reserves are only temporary.



Without SRS, our counties face diminished public safety services, reductions in school programming, and deteriorating road conditions. These impacts are immediate and severe, placing both community wellbeing and regional economic stability at risk.

We respectfully request that the House take the following actions:

1. Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program immediately, ensuring counties can continue delivering essential services.
2. Backfill last year's missed payment.
3. Develop a permanent and reliable funding solution that ends the cycle of short-term reauthorizations and provides long-term stability counties need to plan responsibly and serve their residents.

The Secure Rural Schools program has been a lifeline for rural counties across the nation. Without immediate action, counties like ours face severe disruptions that threaten the well-being of our residents and our communities. We urge you to provide strong leadership to ensure the program's renewal and long-term support so our counties can continue delivering the services our residents depend on.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Derrick DeGroot

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Derrick DeGroot, Vice Chair
Klamath County Commissioners

Signed by:

Geri Byrne

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Geri Byrne, District 5
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Signed by:

Jess W. Harris

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Jess W. Harris, District 1
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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CC (via email only):

Congressman Cliff Bentz
Congressman Doug LaMalfa
Rural County Representatives of California

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick
Senator Megan Dahle