

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2017

Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

As the Office of Management and Budget begins its work to set priorities for fiscal year 2018 and write the President's budget request, we strongly encourage you to support adequate funding for the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination (SRS) program. SRS payments provide critical revenues to more than 775 rural counties and 4,400 schools throughout the country, impacting nine million students across 41 states. In many cases, these "forest counties" include massive swaths of public lands, particularly National Forest System lands, often consuming 65 to 90 percent of total land within their boundaries.

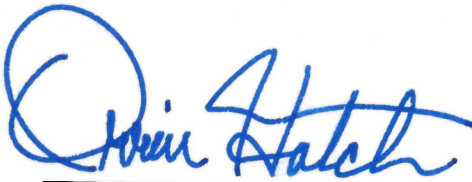
Nearly 100 years ago, recognizing the key support these counties provide to our national forests, Congress passed legislation to specify that 25 percent of revenues from timber harvests on federal lands would be shared with affected counties for "the benefit of the public schools and public roads in county or counties in which national forests are situated." Though helpful, massive reductions in timber production on federal forests over the last 30 years have dropped revenues by as much as 99 percent in some counties and over 70 percent nationwide.

SRS was first enacted in 2000 to renew this 100-year-old revenue sharing promise in light of significant losses faced by forest counties as timber revenues declined. This promise is as relevant today as ever given these counties are still expected to provide essential services on their public lands. SRS expired on September 30, 2015, and it has not been reauthorized for FY16 or beyond. Forest counties and schools received their last authorized SRS payment in March 2016. Without SRS, existing revenue sharing payments are not sufficient to support the services these counties must provide, and counties are forced to choose between critical services for their citizens.

Prevailing uncertainties about SRS make it nearly impossible for local governments to plan their annual budgets. The federal government has long recognized its obligation to these forest counties, and we are committed to working in Congress to provide these counties the resources they need to serve their populations. We ask that you do all that you can in FY18 and into the future to work with us in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

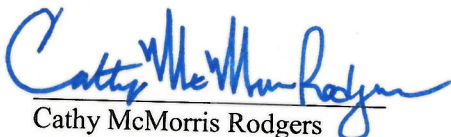
Sincerely,



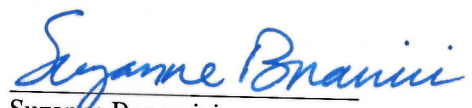
Orrin Hatch  
U.S. Senator



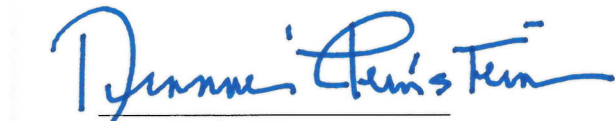
Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator

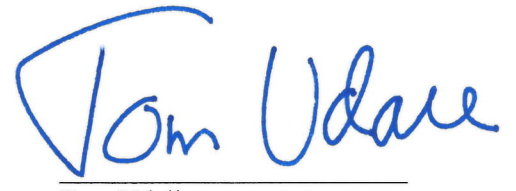


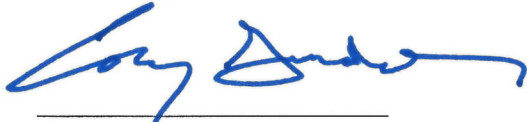
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

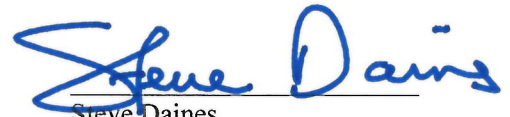
  
Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator


  
Tom Udall  
U.S. Senator

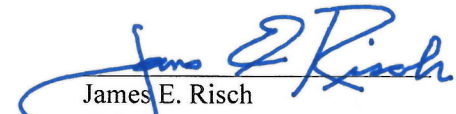
  
Cory Gardner  
U.S. Senator

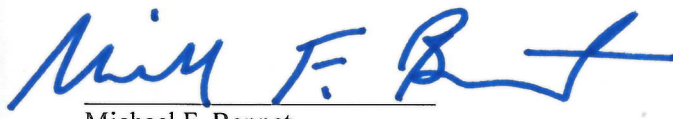
  
Claire McCaskill  
U.S. Senator

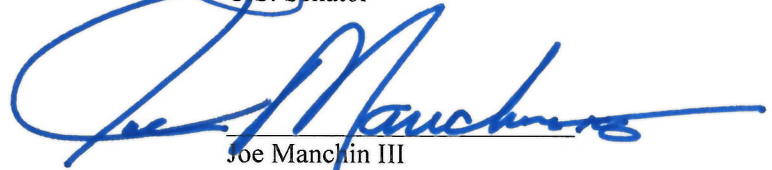
  
Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senator

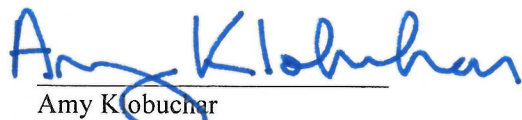
  
Steve Daines  
U.S. Senator

  
Jon Tester  
U.S. Senator


  
James E. Risch  
U.S. Senator


  
Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator

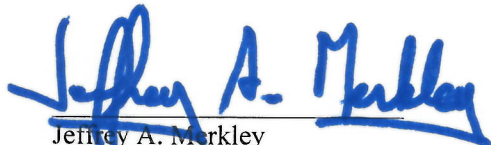
  
Joe Manchin III  
U.S. Senator


  
Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senator


  
Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senator


  
Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senator

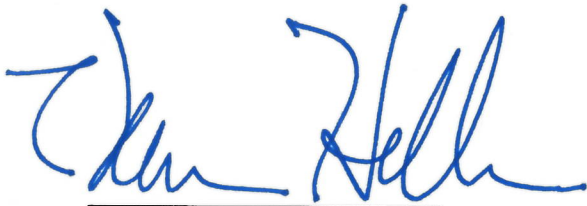
  
Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senator

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
U.S. Senator

  
Martin Heinrich  
U.S. Senator

  
Al Franken  
U.S. Senator

  
Roger F. Wicker  
U.S. Senator



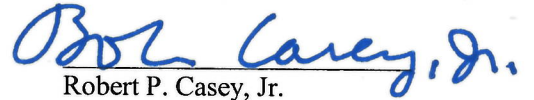
Dean Heller  
U.S. Senator



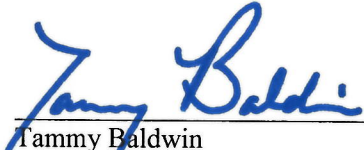
Patty Murray  
U.S. Senator



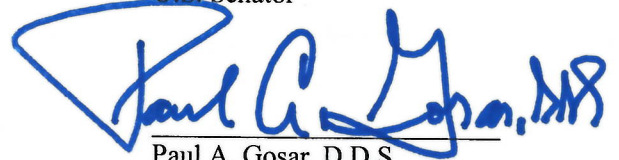
Gary C. Peters  
U.S. Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
U.S. Senator



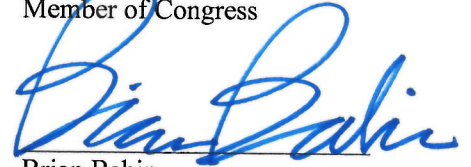
Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senator



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress




Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



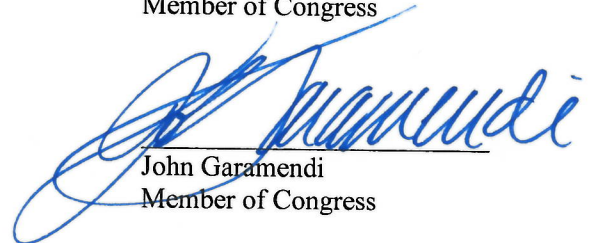
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



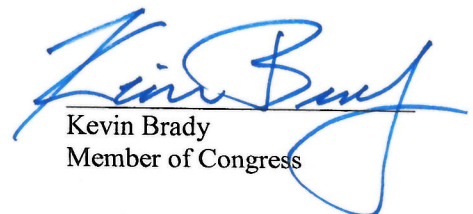
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



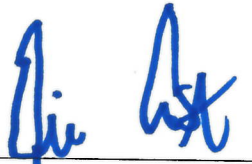
Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

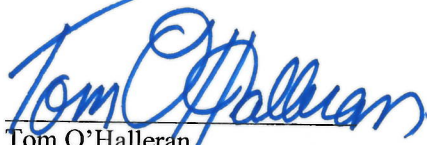


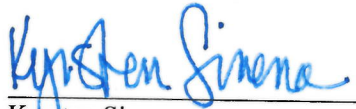
Ralph Lee Abraham  
Member of Congress

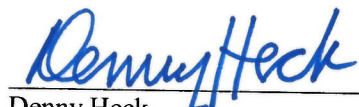


Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

  
Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

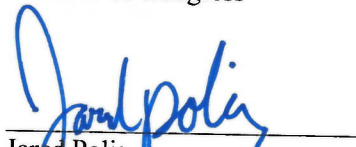
  
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress


  
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress


  
Mia B. Love  
Member of Congress

  
Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress


  
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl R. Labrador  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

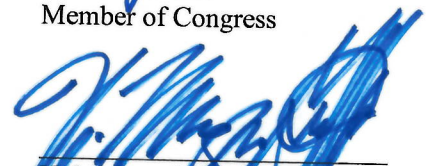
  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
Evan H. Jenkins  
Member of Congress

  
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

  
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao

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Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho

Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt

Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

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Member of Congress

Dave Reichert

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Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo

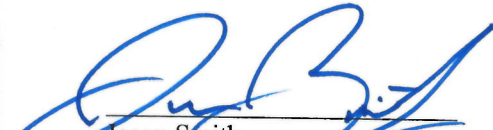
Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress

Tom Reed

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Member of Congress

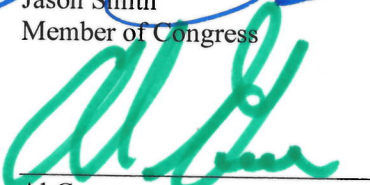
Dan Newhouse

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Member of Congress



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Jason Smith  
Member of Congress




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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress



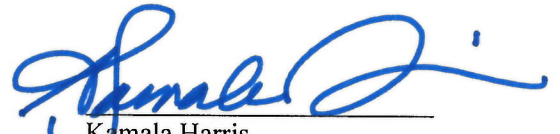
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator



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Kamala Harris  
U.S. Senator