

CARMEL J. ANGELO
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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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October 4, 2011

The Honorable Mike Thompson
1st District Representative
United States House of Representatives
231 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Senator
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Senator
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

Dear Congressman Thompson, Senator Boxer, and Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to express our unanimous support for the reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools funding. As you are aware, the act provides funding to historically forest-dependent communities that have been impacted over the last several decades by downturns in the forest-products industry. The act was enacted to provide funding to help rural communities make the transition through changes in the natural-resource economy. Unless congress acts to reauthorize the decades long commitment to communities with federal forest lands, rural counties will lose vital funding to keep our roads paved and our schools open.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act is a key fixture in counties' ability to provide the most basic services to those that work and live in a rural area. This longstanding federal-local partnership has helped provide vital funding, nearly \$70 million every year in California, for schools, roads, search and rescue, and other county needs. During these tough economic times, we implore Congress to not leave America's rural communities behind.

Although the House and the Senate may ultimately pursue differing forms of legislation to reauthorize this crucial funding, we urge leadership on both sides of the aisle to act in a spirit of bipartisan cooperation and collaboration to preserve this funding before the end of the year.

Again, we thank you for your strong advocacy for this most important issue, and join our County colleagues and NACo, in urging you to reaffirm your support for this vital program for America's rural communities.

Sincerely,

Kendall Smith, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: House Natural Resources Committee
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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