

Lake County leaders urge Congress to immediately reauthorize and fund Secure Rural Schools Act

Written by Lake County News reports
Tuesday, 27 January 2015 01:33 -

LAKE COUNTY, Calif. – The Lake County Board of Supervisors has adopted a resolution urging Congress to reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Secure Rural Schools 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 Secure Rural Schools funding – more than \$33 million statewide – to support public schools and critical county road programs.

“Secure Rural Schools funding is critical to Lake County's ability to provide for our residents, and its immediate reauthorization should be of the utmost priority for Congress,” said Anthony Farrington, Lake County Board of Supervisors chairman 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,” Farrington said.

The Secure Rural Schools Act expired on 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.

California's forested counties and schools located within those counties are dependent upon federal revenue-sharing programs such as Secure Rural Schools for maintaining local roads, and for providing vital local services and programs.

Lake County is joining RCRC in a statewide effort to raise awareness on the importance of Secure Rural Schools 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.

Lake County's share of Secure Rural Schools revenue averages approximately \$250,000 per year.

These funds are deposited into the Lake County Public Works general road fund and are used for daily operation and maintenance.

“The Secure Rural Schools funds equal about what we typically spend on road maintenance materials in a one-year period. The maintenance of our roads could take a huge hit without that funding,” said Lake County Department of Public Works Director Scott De Leon.

RCRC is a 34-member county strong service organization that champions policies on behalf of California's rural counties.

Lake County leaders urge Congress to immediately reauthorize and fund Secure Rural Schools Act

Written by Lake County News reports
Tuesday, 27 January 2015 01:33 -

The organization 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 www.rcrcnet.org and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter.