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Board of Supervisors

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October 22, 2014

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
United States House of Representatives
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: Funding Solution for Secure Rural Schools

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully request your help and support in developing a funding solution for the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (SRS). The current authorization expired and without congressional action, the loss of funding will impact our ability to provide essential services to residents and visitors.

SRS was enacted in October 2000 to provide rural counties with a predictable level of funding for schools and roads for FFYs 2001-2006, in order to offset the effect of decreased revenues to counties from declining timber harvests and other income generating activities on federal lands. The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 extended SRS through FFY 2013 which allowed Placer County to receive $841,434 of the total $32.7 million available to 39 California counties. Placer County uses these funds to maintain local roads, schools, emergency services and other local services.

While it is our ultimate goal to enact a long-term, sustainable solution to eliminate the ongoing uncertainty, an extension and full-funding of this program is essential to address immediate needs and allow the federal government to meet its long-standing obligations to counties with federal land.

Placer County stands ready to work with you to develop a funding solution for SRS for Fiscal Year 2015 and beyond. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Allison Carlos of the Placer County Executive Office at (530) 889-4027 or acarlos@placer.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

Jack Duran, Chairman
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Tom McClintock
Placer County Board of Supervisors
David Boesch, Placer County Executive Officer
Holland and Knight
California Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California