

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1201

January 19, 2007

Dear County Official(s):

Thank you for contacting me regarding reauthorization and funding of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). With the expiration of funding in September, 2006, this has become an issue of critical concern to the rural communities of most Western states.

I stand with you in my commitment to resolve this immediate shortfall for Idaho's rural counties and school districts. To that end, I have co-signed my Oregon colleague Congressman Greg Walden's letter to the leadership of the U.S. House and to the House Appropriations Committee leadership seeking re-authorization and emergency funding of these payments as part of an Emergency Supplemental spending bill. This re-authorization and funding will provide counties and school districts with monies needed to alleviate the budget deficits they presently face.

In order for Idaho's rural counties and school districts to continue to provide essential services, these funding issues must be resolved quickly. However, it is also clear that the ultimate issue is much broader in scope. At its core, the problem is grounded in federal management of forest lands.

Simply put, a lasting solution for the revenue needs of Idaho's rural communities will require timber harvests on federally-administered lands. For that reason, I am seeking a return to timber harvests at levels which will meet those revenue needs and I will work with the other Members of Idaho's delegation, including Idaho's senior Senator, Larry Craig, to that end. I ask for your help in that regard as well.

Thank you again for contacting me on this pressing issue. I am honored to serve the people of the great State of Idaho and look forward to helping bring permanent resolution to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have further concerns or questions about this issue.

Warm regards,



Bill Sali