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December 22, 2014

The Honorable Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to thank you for your strong support of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), as well as your efforts to ensure that Congress promptly addresses fiscal year 2014 SRS funding in the new year. As you are well aware, the immediate need in our rural communities for these funds and the risk of failing to extend a proven program is simply too great to delay any longer.

In the previous fiscal year, the U.S. Forest Service distributed well over \$32 million to 38 California counties. Forest counties and schools rely on these payments to maintain local roads and other public infrastructure, operate search and rescue missions, and provide many other essential local services. However, the program has expired, and unless it is extended or reauthorized, these will be the final payments. Faced with the impending loss of this vital source of funding, counties will have to decide whether to lay off employees, cancel contracts, curtail sheriff's patrols, close libraries, and/or eliminate mental health care services.

As a result of your leadership on this important issue, House leaders have pledged to make SRS an early priority in the 114th Congress. CSAC looks forward to continuing to work with you and your exceptional staff to ensure that Congress provides immediate and long-term certainty for rural forested communities. Should you have any questions regarding our position or would like additional information, please contact Hasan Sarsour, CSAC Washington Representative, at 202-898-1444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cate".

Matt Cate
CSAC Executive Director