

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2017

Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

As the Office of Management and Budget begins its work to set priorities for fiscal year 2018 and write the President's budget request, we strongly encourage you to support adequate funding for the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination (SRS) program. SRS payments provide critical revenues to more than 775 rural counties and 4,400 schools throughout the country, impacting nine million students across 41 states. In many cases, these "forest counties" include massive swaths of public lands, particularly National Forest System lands, often consuming 65 to 90 percent of total land within their boundaries.

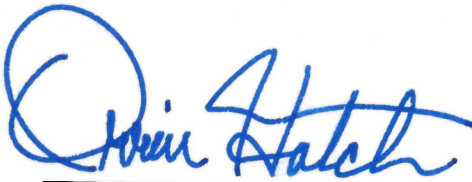
Nearly 100 years ago, recognizing the key support these counties provide to our national forests, Congress passed legislation to specify that 25 percent of revenues from timber harvests on federal lands would be shared with affected counties for "the benefit of the public schools and public roads in county or counties in which national forests are situated." Though helpful, massive reductions in timber production on federal forests over the last 30 years have dropped revenues by as much as 99 percent in some counties and over 70 percent nationwide.

SRS was first enacted in 2000 to renew this 100-year-old revenue sharing promise in light of significant losses faced by forest counties as timber revenues declined. This promise is as relevant today as ever given these counties are still expected to provide essential services on their public lands. SRS expired on September 30, 2015, and it has not been reauthorized for FY16 or beyond. Forest counties and schools received their last authorized SRS payment in March 2016. Without SRS, existing revenue sharing payments are not sufficient to support the services these counties must provide, and counties are forced to choose between critical services for their citizens.

Prevailing uncertainties about SRS make it nearly impossible for local governments to plan their annual budgets. The federal government has long recognized its obligation to these forest counties, and we are committed to working in Congress to provide these counties the resources they need to serve their populations. We ask that you do all that you can in FY18 and into the future to work with us in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

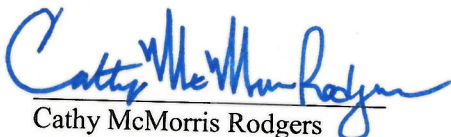
Sincerely,



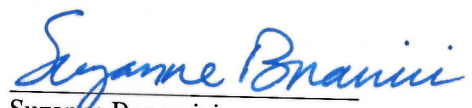
Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator



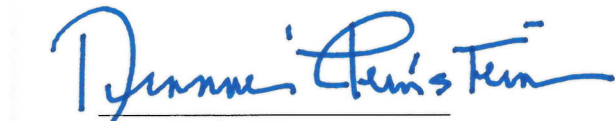
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

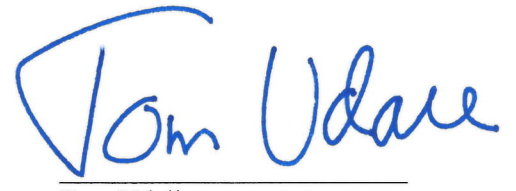


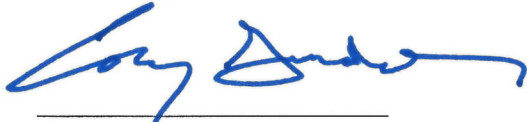
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

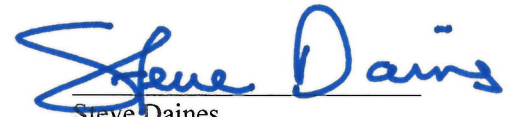

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator

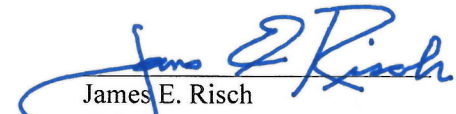

Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator

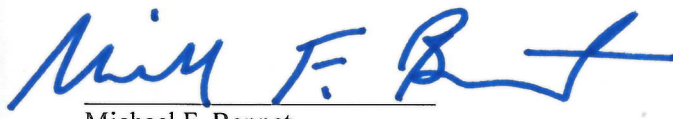

Claire McCaskill
U.S. Senator

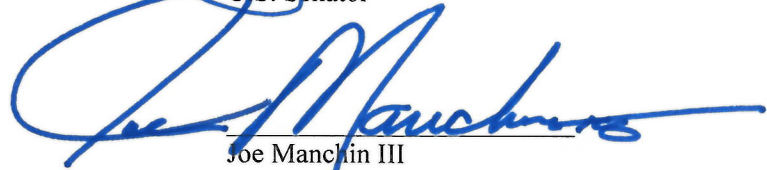

Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator

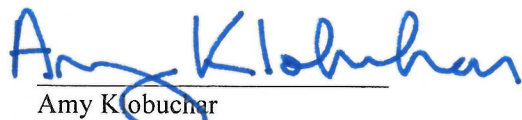

Steve Daines
U.S. Senator


Jon Tester
U.S. Senator



James E. Risch
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

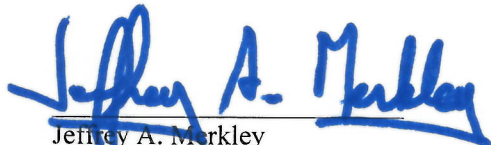

Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senator


Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator

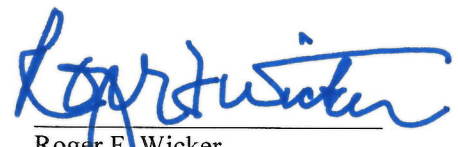

Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator

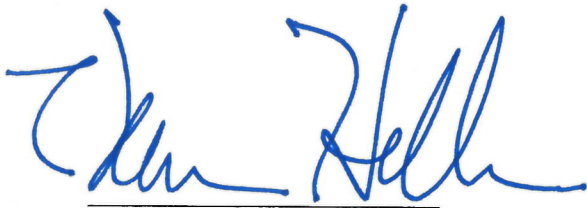

Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator


Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator


Al Franken
U.S. Senator

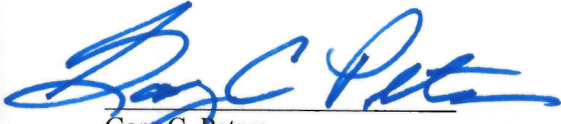

Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator




Dean Heller
U.S. Senator



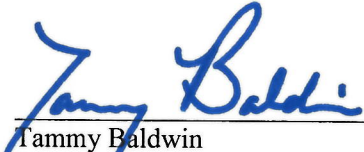
Patty Murray
U.S. Senator



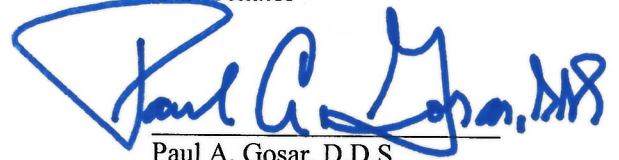
Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senator



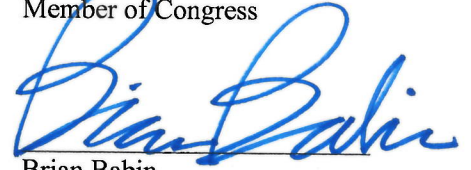
Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress




Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



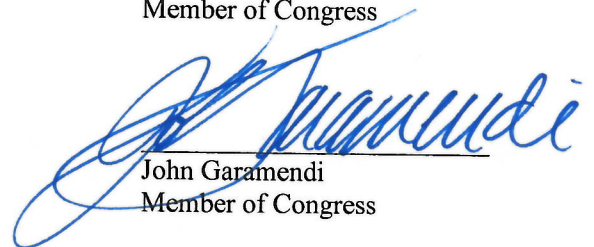
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



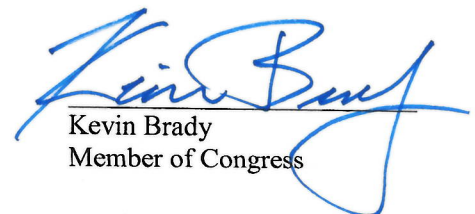
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



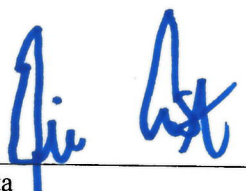
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



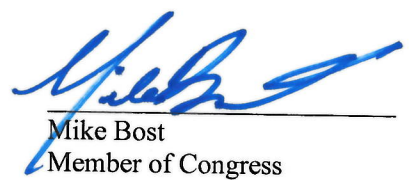
Ralph Lee Abraham
Member of Congress



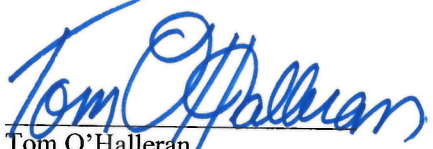
Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



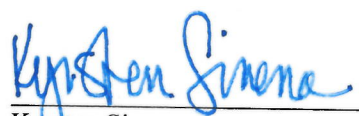
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress




Raúl R. Labrador
Member of Congress



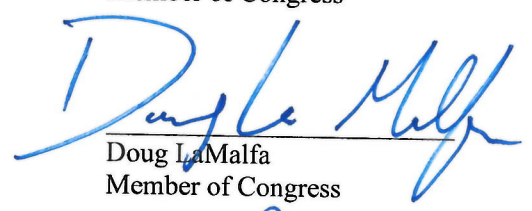
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



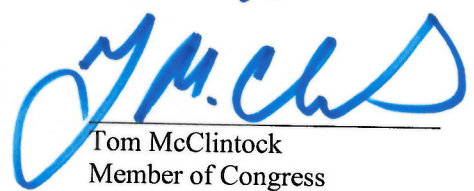
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



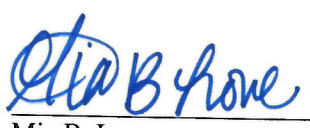
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



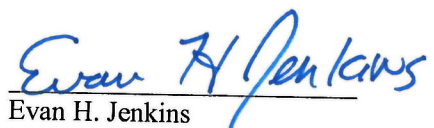
Mia B. Love
Member of Congress



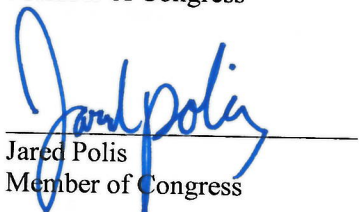
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Evan H. Jenkins
Member of Congress



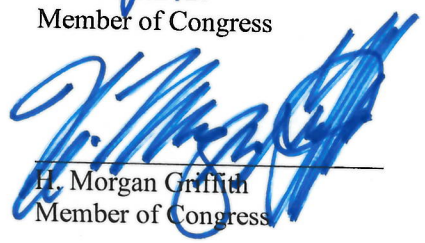
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho

Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo

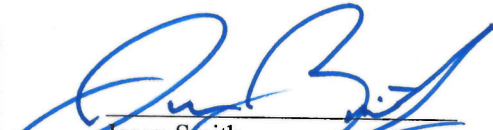
Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Tom Reed

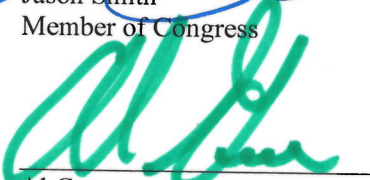
Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



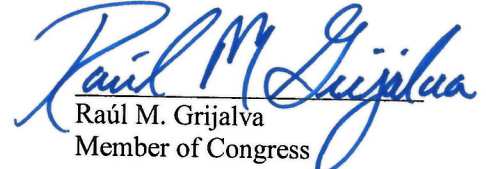
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



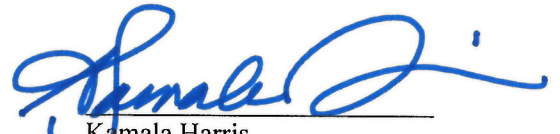
Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



Kamala Harris
U.S. Senator