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| **From:** | Susan Sciabbarrasi |
| **To:** | Rep. George Rauscher |
| **Subject:** | Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:55:00 PM |

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I am writing in support of reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, ie., Timber Receipts. Chatham School District is made up of 4 communities in Rural Alaska. Each site has between 10-75 students per site and the sites are many miles apart, therefore, the only access is by seaplanes or the ferry system. The cost for travel as well as receipt of goods and services to these remote areas continues to rise. It is difficult for areas outside of the State of Alaska to understand the challenges when there are no roads in or out of the towns and a thousand miles from a major city.

Last year was the first year without those funds and this year we have had to reduce our certified teaching staff to offset that loss. Our students are among the most needy academically (approximately 30-35% proficient) and that loss will have an even greater impact on the education of our students. Those funds have been used to offset our Food Service programs in the two Native Communities. Without those funds, we may not be able to continue providing two solid meals per day for our students since the NSLP program does not fully fund our expenses due to the cost to ship food to the remote villages. Those two meals are staples for many of our students.

In addition, next year we will be required to continue to reduce our staff, services, materials and supplies. We will not be able to provide our teachers with staff development opportunities that aides in their effectiveness and student success. We will have to limit our extra-curricular and sports activities and travel. All of which, are detrimental to our students' current success as well as their post secondary endeavors.

When the Timber industry declined, the Timber Receipts were the saving factor for many of our communities and they have helped to sustain them over the past years. With no other viable industry is several villages and towns around the state, I feel the students will suffer tremendously if these funds are not reauthorized.

Therefore, it is my fervent hope that you will maintain your past commitment to these communities who rely on those funds to be able to provide for the bare necessities for many of our school children.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Susan**

Susan Sciabbarrasi
Superintendent
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