

Sheila Finkenbinder

To: Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: RE: Secure Rural Schools Funding in CA

From: Skip Ryman [<mailto:sryman@yakutatak.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:29 PM
To: Jackie Douglas
Subject: Re: Secure Rural Schools Funding in CA

Thank you for an opportunity to be heard on this very important issue to the City and Borough of Yakutat, Alaska. As you may recall, we are actually funded as a result of an "accident" when the tax extender was attached to the stimulus package by the Senate and the House which had removed our funding originally was forced by temporal constraints to adopt it the second time. I am hopeful that this has not attached a stigma too difficult to overcome but we shall see.

Yakutat is a ten thousand square mile Borough, or county with only 650 residents. Seven thousand nine hundred of those square miles are federally owned. Our Borough contains significant portions of Glacier Bay National Park, Wrangell, St. Elias National Park. the Tongass National Forest and BLM lands. These federal land owners, through their policies, are the single most reason for our stagnant population growth. They simply control ninety percent or more of our economic potential. Although the Forest Service was founded for the explicit purpose of making money from their land holdings, their ability to do so has been directed almost exclusivity to logging and logging related industry. When this was slowed by environmental policy, instead of looking to other enterprises, the Forest Service simply went into and remains in a "deep sleep" mode. Their inability to fulfill their founding responsibilities is the single most cause of the erosion of school funding for affected municipalities and counties.

A point in fact. The local USDA District office has received several million dollars in Federal Highway funds which they are using to build a large, free camping facility on a river, the fishery of which represents seventy percent of our local economy. The result will be less patronage in local lodges and bed and breakfasts and a reduction in commercial user days available to local guides and boat rentals. The Forest Service has seemingly abandoned their federally mandated role and taken on the mantra of the Park Service.

Secure Rural Schools funding (AKA old Forest Receipts) accounts for a full third of our school district funding. The inability of the federal government to build a fire under federal land managers does not negate the fact that our children need an education. Nor does it negate the responsibility for funding schools and roads assumed by the federal government when they withdrew these lands from local tax rolls. It's incredibly paradoxical that the first thing the federal government did when it arrived in this five thousand year old community and assumed ownership of land was to build and staff schools. That responsibility so readily and justly assumed cannot be ethically abandoned on the basis of ineffective land management.

Skip Ryman,
Manager, City and Borough of Yakutat

On 3/30/2011 1:53 PM, Jackie Douglas wrote:

Dear California Forest Coalition Members:

As you may know, the early DC proposal for reauthorizing SRSCA has us starting at 2011 funding levels which is a 39.6 reduction for CA from 2007 funding levels. Included in that early proposal is a continuous ramp down from there. Several of us are going to Washington DC next week to meet with our Senators, sharing that starting with draconian funding levels, and reducing from there is unacceptable to us.

Even though it's late notice, if any of you can share what partial, or full loss of SRSCA funding means to your schools, it will be helpful to us when talking with Congress. In this fiscal climate, reasons to reauthorize our program need to be very compelling, absent that, it will be too easy for Congress to "Just Say No". Please send any stories, and or impacts to your schools to me at jimf@tcoek12.org. Every little bit helps.

Sincerely,

Jim French, President
National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition

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Jackie Douglas

MAA Coordinator & E-Rate Coordinator

CISC Leadership Symposium Coordinator

Administrative Assistant - National/California Forest Counties & Schools Coalition

Tehama County Department of Education

1135 Lincoln Street / P.O. Box 689, Red Bluff, CA 96080

530-528-7342 - jdouglas@tehamaschools.org

Cell # 530-200-1804

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 08-124**

NATIONAL FOREST COUNTIES & SCHOOLS COALITION

Purpose: Selection of Forest Reserve Payment System

Opting in/out of HR 1424 (PL 110-343 – Sect. 601(a), Division C) Safety Net

Whereas counties having United States National Forests within their boundaries have received Forest Reserve funds for roads and schools since the passage of the Agricultural Reapportionment Act of 1908 based on revenues generated from these forests; and

Whereas these counties have substantial areas of land in public ownership which can neither be developed nor taxed to generate revenue from economic activity or taxation; and

Whereas during most of the 20th century Forest Reserve payments were a consistent but cyclical source of income for schools and counties; and

Whereas during the past decade changes in public policy at the national revenue have substantially reduced and in some cases virtually eliminated economic activity on national forests; and

Whereas the demands for education and roads have in most jurisdictions continually increased while Forest Reserve revenues have declined; and

Whereas the Congress of the United States recognizing the existence of the above mentioned conditions has seen fit to pass PL 110-343, which provides a four (4) year safety net whereby counties may either receive the traditional annual payment from the Forest Service (and/or BLM) or select four years of payments based on a formula provided in the legislation.

Whereas PL 110-343 specifies that each forest county has an option to select either: (a) remaining on the traditional 25% Forest Reserve Receipts payment system or (b) selecting the full payment system set forth in Title I of PL 110-343; and

Whereas it is understood that counties which select the PL 110-343 full payment (safety net) option are doing so for the full four (4) year life of the bill; and

Whereas it is further understood, that those counties who select to remain on the traditional 25% Forest Reserve Receipt system, are obligating themselves for a two year period, and will have the option of changing to the PL 110-343 safety net system after the second year of the bill.

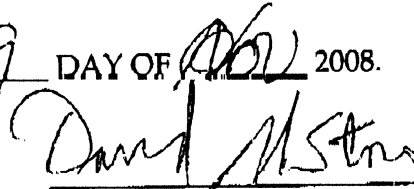
Be it therefore resolved that City and Borough of Yakutat and its impacted school districts, hereby select to receive their forest reserve payments as set forth below (specify one):

- ☐ Traditional 25% Forest Reserve Receipts – 1908 Act (7 year rolling average)
- ☐ Full Safety Net Payment amount as per PL 110-343; and

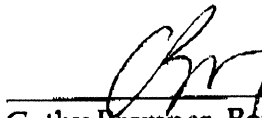
Be it further resolved that this selection be communicated to the Governor of the State of Alaska, by November 10, 2008; and

Be it further resolved that all jurisdictions receiving Forest Reserve Funds within City and Borough of Yakutat receive a copy of this resolution for their official records as soon as it is officially adopted.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9 DAY OF NOV 2008.


MAYOR DAVID STONE

ATTEST:


Cathy Bremner, Borough Clerk

