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Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 29

“Urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act of 2000.”

House Joint Resolution 29 calls on the US Congress to pass legislation extending the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Communities Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Since 1908, the Forest Service provided counties and schools 25 percent of the revenues collected from management activities on the National Forest System. The SRS program was enacted in 2000 to provide funding for communities and schools to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests.

In Alaska the Act provided funding for schools in communities in and near the Chugach National Forrester and the Tongass National Forrester. The expiration of SRS created dramatic budgetary shortfalls for local school districts.

This resolution calls on Congress the re-authorize this long-standing federal obligation to local governments and schools, and enact a sustainable long-term program to share revenues generated from the management of designated federal lands.

I encourage the passage of this resolution.

If you have additional questions please contact Darrell Breese in my office at 465-4859.