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RESOLUTION OF THE SITKA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution No. 2018-02

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization

The Sitka School Board supports Alaska House Joint Resolution 29 and urges immediate reauthorization and funding for fiscal year 2019 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. Furthermore, the Sitka School Board urges multi-year reauthorization and mandatory funding of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA) by the U.S. Congress as a key component of federal financial assistance to local governments and school districts across the country. This law recognizes the need for sustained funding to school districts that have non-taxable national forest lands within their boundaries.

The Secure Rural Schools Act is critically important to many rural school districts such as Sitka which have relied heavily on Secure Rural Schools funds to supplement local revenue for education. The Sitka School District resides in the Sitka Borough which is 95% comprised of the Tongass National Forest. The impact of a National Forest that no longer provides significant revenue to help support local schools and roads places an onerous burden upon our citizens that cannot be adequately addressed without Federal assistance.

Given the many national-forested municipalities and school districts that have no ability to generate local tax revenue to support schools and roads, it is imperative that this act is immediately reauthorized and funded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Sitka School Board** urges the support of Alaska House Joint Resolution 29 as it will serve as a strong reminder to federal lawmakers of the critical importance of ongoing support to local communities.

Approved on February 6, 2018

Jennifer McNichol, President, Sitka School Board