



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

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Office of the Borough Mayor

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, I offer our support for House Joint Resolution 5; seeking reinstatement of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act). This program is vital for ensuring that rural communities like ours can continue to provide a quality education for our children.

The SRS Act has been a lifeline for Southeast Alaska, providing much-needed funding to offset revenue losses from reduced timber harvesting on federal lands. The program's expiration in January 2025 poses a significant challenge for local governments already facing fiscal constraints. Reinstating and making this funding mechanism permanent would provide long-term stability and security for communities heavily impacted by federal land ownership.

I strongly support your efforts to urge Congress to take swift action to reauthorize the SRS Act retroactively and make its funding mechanism permanent. Your advocacy is critical to maintaining the well-being and resilience of Alaska's rural communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rodney Dial

Mayor, Ketchikan Gateway Borough

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative