



RESOLUTION 022-2015

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO To Request the 114th Congress to Reauthorize and Fund the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

WHEREAS, Counties across the United States expressed concern that large areas of land designated under the 1891 Forest Reserve Act would no longer be available for economic development, thwarting all future tax proceeds intended to support local community development; and,

WHEREAS, Congress took action to mitigate the impact on county government, and in 1907 began providing counties with 10 percent of gross receipts from timber harvests in national forests to help offset the revenue loss, which then grew to more than 25 percent through enactment of the National Forest Revenue Act of 1908 to support county roads and public schools; and,

WHEREAS, From 1908 to 2000, the United States Forest Service managed forest resources on national forest lands for long-term revenues and during that same period of time counties across the United States shared in these revenues in lieu of tax revenues that could have otherwise been generated had these lands remained in private hands; and,

WHEREAS, In the 1990's, the volume and value of timber harvested on national forest lands was drastically reduced, which led Congress to enact the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.), which provided a six-year guarantee payment option that was independent of the revenue generated on the national forest lands; and,

WHEREAS, The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which has been extended several times, most recently by the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-40), expired on September 30, 2013, resulting in a lapse in funding in 2014 and future years to critical programs in schools and counties across the United States, including California; and,

WHEREAS, California's forested counties and schools located within those counties are dependent on federal revenue-sharing programs, including federal forest payments, for maintaining local roads, and providing vital local services and programs; and,

WHEREAS, County public works programs will be crippled without stable, predictable, long-term funding supported by the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, causing the local road network to suffer long-term degradation, and putting communities at risk for public safety emergencies due to cuts in staffing and operational activities; and,

WHEREAS, Specifically, the County of El Dorado anticipates \$880,000 in Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act funding for Fiscal Year 2014-15 to be utilized by the County's Road Fund to maintain over 1,079 miles of roadway throughout the County, and without this funding critical road maintenance will be further delayed leading to deterioration and increased road maintenance costs over the long term; and,

WHEREAS, A number of efforts were made in the 113th Congress in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to reauthorize the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for counties and schools to maintain vital programs and avoid any interruption in county services and school operations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 27th day of January, 2015, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest:
James S. Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

_____ Chair, Board of Supervisors