

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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June 24, 2025

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Reauthorization

Dear Kern Delegates,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. This program continues to serve as a critical funding source for rural counties like Kern that host significant tracts of federally managed forest lands yet lack the tax base to adequately support public services in those areas.

In Fiscal Year 2024, Kern County received approximately \$87,000 in SRS funding. While modest in comparison to larger jurisdictions, these funds play an essential role in supporting road maintenance, public safety, and educational services in our rural mountain communities. Without continued SRS funding, Kern County would face difficult trade-offs in service delivery, particularly in areas where alternative revenue sources are limited or nonexistent.

As you know, the SRS program was originally designed to offset declines in timber revenues and to help ensure that counties could maintain essential infrastructure and community services. Reauthorizing this program is vital to our ability to maintain access to remote areas, support forest health, and keep our residents safe.

We urge you to prioritize reauthorization and long-term stabilization of the SRS program as part of any forthcoming legislative package. Kern County and other rural jurisdictions across California and the nation depend on this lifeline to meet our fundamental obligations to our communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' with a stylized flourish.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: National Association of Counties
California State Association of Counties
Townsend Public Affairs