



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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August 14, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S. 356 Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 – Support

Dear Representative Panetta and Representative Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for S.356 the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025.

The Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act would extend the revenue-sharing payments to forest counties through the U.S. Forest Service's Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. SRS was first enacted in 2000 to stabilize payments to counties and school districts which historically relied on receipts from timber harvests to fund local education services and infrastructure projects. As a recipient of SRS, the County of Monterey relies on SRS payments to provide numerous critical services including infrastructure, conservation projects, search and rescue missions and fire prevention projects.

However, SRS authorization expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2023. Without reauthorization, the County of Monterey and many other counties will experience severe budgetary shortfalls, affecting the delivery of vital services including education, infrastructure maintenance, disaster mitigation and more.

We urge you to vote for the passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, S. 356 and thank you for your continued support for the County of Monterey.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California



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