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July 23, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

I write to express my continued disappointment over the failure to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and implore you to do so as soon as possible. In communities like mine, the SRS program has helped fund essential public education, road infrastructure, and emergency response services.

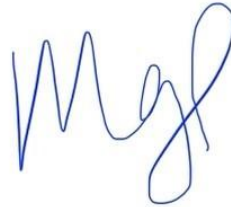
Since Congress allowed this program to expire, the Stevenson-Carson School District in Skamania County, Washington has had to lay off 10.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers and counselors, 8.9 FTE paraeducators, cooks, bus drivers, and other support staff, and 2 contracted student support positions, including therapists and prevention specialists. This means higher student-teacher ratios, consolidated bus routes, and a growing gap in critical student mental health and development support. This is devastating for our students.

Congressional inaction has rippling consequences for our communities. Most recently, Wind River Middle School was forced to close its doors and redirect its students to the existing elementary and high schools for the next school year. Each day without SRS payments brings further disruptions to student education and community stability.

Elsewhere in my district, SRS funding supports the maintenance of over 1,200 miles of roadway in Lewis County. The reduction in funding has forced Lewis County to delay or cancel maintenance projects, leaving the infrastructure worse off and shifting what could have been routine maintenance to expensive emergency repairs down the line.

While 1908 payments were disbursed to the counties, they were 25% of what they would have received from SRS. Our schools and communities deserve better. On June 18th, the Senate passed S.356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 by unanimous consent. I ask that you bring the bill to the floor with the urgency our children and communities deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MGP', with a large loop at the end.

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress