



Board of County Commissioners

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July 18, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson,

We are writing to urge your support for the reauthorization and full funding of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. For Lewis County, Wash., and many other rural areas with significant federal forest lands, SRS remains essential to maintaining the roads, schools and basic public services that our communities rely on.

Originally established to offset the sharp decline in timber revenue, SRS funding helps support over 1,200 miles of roadway in Lewis County. It pays for chip sealing, pavement repair and critical road maintenance services. Our Public Works Department depends on these dollars to meet its goal of repairing 120 to 130 miles of roadway each year.

Much like the Louisiana communities you represent, we've seen SRS funding drop dramatically – from \$2.2 million in 2006 to roughly \$130,000 for 2025. For every \$1 million in SRS funding, we can service about 30 miles of roadway. The reduction in funding has already forced us to delay or cancel maintenance projects, leading to infrastructure degradation and shifting routine maintenance into expensive emergency repairs.

YEAR	SRS TOTAL
'06	\$2,202,009
'07	2,204,979
'08	2,113,899
'09	1,899,024
'10	1,711,026
'11	1,114,773
'12	1,058,056
'13	1,069,221
'14	58,367
'15	940,891
'16	831,737
'17	161,059
'18	715,338
'19	728,937
'20	674,552
'21	710,677
'22	768,518
'23	698,827
'24	720,554
'25	130,206

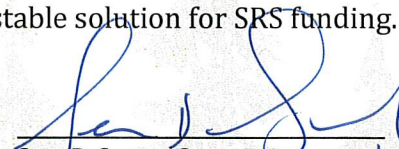
SRS funds received by
Lewis County, Wash.

The SRS program also is vital for schools. More than 4,000 school districts across the country – including those in Washington and Louisiana – rely on this funding. Without reauthorization, communities face layoffs, program cuts and even closures. These impacts are felt most acutely in rural areas, where schools also serve as hubs for emergency response and healthcare.

We respectfully urge your leadership in ensuring a long-term, stable solution for SRS funding.


Scott J. Brummer, BOCC Chair


Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair


Sean D. Swope, Commissioner

Ryan Barrett
County Manager

Sean Swope
First District

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM
Second District

Scott Brummer
Third District

Rieva Lester
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