



## SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Brian Nichols  
District 1

Rob Farris  
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Asa Leckie  
District 3

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Re: Letter of Support for Swift Passage of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Reauthorization

Dear Representative:

We write to you today as the Board of Commissioners for Skamania County, Washington, to express our strong support for **S. 356 - the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025** - and to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to swiftly pass this critical legislation.

As commissioners for a county where over 80% of land is federally owned and exempt from local taxation, we see firsthand the devastating consequences that come from the erosion of federal timber revenue. For decades, the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program has served as a vital safety net, helping counties like ours fund essential services—including public education, roads, and emergency response.

That situation in Skamania County is dire, as these funds have been the main source for the replacement of timber harvest revenue. Our county's largest school district is now closing a second school - an unthinkable hardship driven by the federal government's long-term failure to uphold its commitment to timber-dependent communities. We are watching classrooms go dark, educators displaced, and families forced to make impossible decisions. Without reauthorization of SRS, the trajectory only gets worse.

1. S.356 would extend SRS funding to ensure timely disbursement of overdue payments - providing us with the certainty we need to keep our schools and communities afloat. We urge you to recognize this moment for what it is: a call to honor longstanding commitments to rural America.

On behalf of our residents - students, teachers, and families - we ask you to vote in favor of S. 356 and ensure its swift passage through the House.

Respectfully,

  
Asa Leckie  
Commissioner

  
Robert Farris  
Commissioner

  
Brian Nichols  
Commissioner

