



March 26, 2013

Chief Thomas L. Tidwell
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Tidwell:

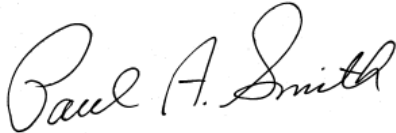
On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Small School Districts' Association (SSDA), and the California School Boards Association (CSBA), we express our strong concerns with the Administration's recent attempt to recapture a portion of the 2012 fiscal year Secure Rural School's (SRS) allocations. It is our understanding that this attempt is related to the Budget Control Act of 2011, which mandates budget reductions across all areas of federal spending for fiscal year 2013. As you know, a number California's counties and school districts participate in the SRS program and these entities rely on all three title payments for their education, resource conservation, and local roads needs.

We appreciate the difficulties of our federal government's needs to address spending as a whole. However, we do not believe 2012 fiscal year payments should be used for sequestration. SRS payments were reauthorized by Congress last June for the 2012 fiscal year, and traditionally these payments are made in December. However, payments associated with the 2012 reauthorization were made in early February of this year due to the late reauthorization of the program and internal accounting changes at the United States Forest Service (USFS).

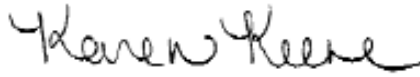
As you know, in order for the SRS program to continue, Congress must act this year. Reauthorization remains a high priority for RCRC, ACSA, CSAC, SSDA, and CSBA. However, the attempt to sequester these funds is a major distraction to reauthorizing the program and reaching a long-term solution to assist the fiscal efforts of our nation's forested counties.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Paul A. Smith, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate, at (916) 447-4806, Adonai Mack, ACSA Legislative Advocate, at (916) 329-3821, Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative, at (916) 327-7500 Ext. 511, David Walrath, SSDA Deputy Executive Director, at (916) 441-3300, or Erika A. Hoffman, CSBA Legislative Advocate, at (916) 669-2553.

Sincerely,



PAUL A. SMITH
RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate



KAREN A. KEENE
CSAC Senior Legislative Representative



DAVID WALRATH
SSDA Deputy Executive Director



ADONAI MACK
ACSA Legislative Advocate



ERIKA A. HOFFMAN
CSBA Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Member of the United States Senate
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Member of the United States Senate
The Honorable Paul Cook, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Costa, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Jeff Denham, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Sam Farr, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable John Garamendi, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Doug La Malfa, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Member of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Member of the United States House of Representatives