Chairman James Beard
Sierra County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 1140
Loyalton, CA 96118

Dear Chairman Beard,

Thank you for writing regarding the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. I appreciate hearing from you, and I apologize for the delay in my response.

Please know that I am a strong supporter of SRS and I understand the importance of the program to many counties in California. California is the second largest recipient of SRS funds, with 39 counties in California receiving $28 million this year this year.

You may be pleased to know that President Obama signed the “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015” (H.R. 2) into law on April 16, 2015. As you mentioned, this law extends SRS through Fiscal Year 2015. I voted in support of H.R. 2 when it passed the Senate by a vote of 92-8 on April 14, 2015.

I am also a cosponsor of the “Secure Rural Schools and Payment in Lieu of Taxes Repair Act” (S. 517), introduced by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) on February 12, 2015. S. 517 would extend the SRS program for three years, through FY 2016. It would also restore mandatory funding authority for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. S. 517 currently awaits consideration before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Please know that I share your support for the SRS program. I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind as I continue to advocate for the further extension of this program.

Again, thank you for your letter. I hope you will continue to write on matters of importance to you. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact my Washington, D.C., office at (202) 224-3841, or online at http://feinstein.senate.gov. Best regards.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator