



*County Supervisors Association
of Arizona*

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May 5, 2011

The Honorable Pat Call
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
Cochise County
1415 Melody Lane, Bldg G
Bisbee, AZ 85603-3037

Dear Chairman Call:

Thank you for your support of the Arizona Secure Rural Schools Coalition Action Team. Your participation in this multi-county movement is critical to the success of our efforts to secure a long-term extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act (SRS).

The effort to extend SRS is making progress. In the last year alone:

- The President's budget for fiscal year 2012 includes a reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools. While the reauthorization is not at current levels, it is a good first step. The President's budget for fiscal year 2012 proposes a five-year extension of SRS. However, the budget calls for 2012 to be funded at approximately the same level as 2011 and then ramping down payments over the next four years (decrease of 20% in 2013, 10% in 2014, 25% in 2015, and a final 25% in 2016).
- House Republicans, led by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, have proposed a budget that establishes a reserve fund for Secure Rural Schools and PILT, as long as such funding does not increase the federal deficit;
- Congressional leaders throughout the country have voiced their support for SRS, including over 25 House members and members of Arizona's Congressional delegation who called for a ten-year renewal; and

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- Many Arizona county leaders like you visited with members of Arizona's Congressional delegation last autumn and again during the recent NACo conference in March asking them to support an extension of SRS.

While significant, these steps alone are not sufficient to guarantee a long-term extension of SRS.

Accordingly, the Partnership for Rural America, a national alliance dedicated to an extension of SRS, has contracted with a consultant to coordinate the nationwide effort to ask Congress for an extension of SRS. In order to fund the activities of this consultant, *the Partnership is asking each county that receives SRS payments to make a financial contribution.*

Attached is an invoice that identifies that payment needed from your county, based on its share of Arizona's SRS payments.

As co-chairs of Arizona's Action Team, we ask that you please contribute to ensure the ongoing success of our efforts. *Please have your county remit payment to: Partnership for Rural America c/o The National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition.*

While Arizona's counties are facing challenging financial times, we believe the cost of this contribution pales in comparison to the potential loss of SRS funding if our efforts fail due to a lack of support. If counties throughout the country continue fighting for Secure Rural Schools, we believe that reauthorization is very likely.

Please continue to support this critical effort.

Sincerely,



Liz Archuleta
Supervisor, District II
Coconino County



Tim Carter
Superintendent of Schools
Yavapai County

cc: Michael Ortega, Cochise County Administrator ✓

Attachment: Invoice

Partnership for Rural America
c/o National Forest Counties and School Coalition
P.O. Box 8551
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Invoice

Invoice #SRS-2011-002

Date: May 3, 2011

Bill To:

Cochise County
1415 Melody Lane, Bldg G
Bisbee, AZ 85603

Goal: The Long-term (ten-year) reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (County Revenue Sharing Program appropriated at a fixed level)

Purpose: The purpose of the Partnership for Rural America Campaign is to renew the obligation the federal government holds with rural communities and to promote the economic and social health of rural America by actively building a broad-based partnership to support the long-term reauthorization and appropriation of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

Cochise County Service Fee to the Partnership for Rural America for the Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools Funding.	
(Calculation is 1/10 th of 1% of the FY08 timber receipts payment to your county)	\$704.00
Mail checks directly to: Partnership for Rural America P.O. Box 8551 Red Bluff, CA 96080	\$704.00

Thank you!

Partnership for Rural America
"An Initiative of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition"