



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H234 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

Congratulations on your election successes as you convene the 110th Congress of the United States. I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

As you convene the 110th Congress I urge you to pass, without hesitation, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). P.L. 106-393 expired in September of 2006, however, if it is reauthorized before May 2007, there is still a chance that its expiration will not permanently distress rural America in over 40 states and in over 700 counties.

Oregon's counties have relied on this law to provide stable funding for rural schools and communities as well as popular forest management projects. This program has brought together people from both sides of the aisle and both timber and environmental interests because it is a successful program that provides for our counties and protects precious forest land.

Oregon is rebounding from a deep recession and we need the continued support, commitment and partnership from the federal government to ensure all of our communities benefit from a strong economy. The elimination of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act would default on the 100-year-old

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federal commitment to our rural communities and hurt thousands of Oregonians who depend on these payments to keep their communities strong and stable.

Please do all you can to restore this 100-year-old promise to rural America and reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Kulongowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

THEODORE R. KULONGOWSKI
Governor

TRK:sb:m:jc
c: Sarah Bittleman, Policy Advisor on Federal Affairs