



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH POLICY COALITION

April 16, 2024

The Honorable _____
United States State _____
U.S. Capitol, Room _____
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S.2581/H.R.5030) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator/Congressman/woman _____,

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC) writes to express our support for the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S.2581/H.R.5030).

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition represents youth from over thirty counties across Northern California from the North Coast to the North State to Sacramento. We seek to give a voice to rural youth who feel unheard and a platform to come together to advocate for issues that are most important to our rural youth in Northern California. Our main objective is to ensure that the youth voices of this region are heard on local, regional, and state levels, where decisions make a direct impact on our rural communities.

The Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) is a safety net providing critically needed fiscal certainty for resource-dependent communities and schools located in counties with vast tax-exempt federal lands with limited local tax resources. SRS ensures a predictable payment to federally impacted forest counties where the tax base is lower, impacting vital services to the community. It also provides funding for educational services for students in more than 700 rural counties which prevents the closure of remote rural schools serving small communities, and the layoffs of school staff and other public service workers. The last time Congress failed to reauthorize SRS, funding for a rural school district dropped by over 620%.

SRS funds important infrastructure projects, public education, law enforcement, and other essential services to ensure no one in timber-dependent communities gets left behind. This is a question of equity, as youth in rural communities face a lack of access to much-needed infrastructure from reliable broadband to transportation. This critical funding runs out at the end of May 2024, and authorization could mean the difference between having a good education in rural communities and not.

For these reasons, the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition urges your support of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bode Gower
Chair,
Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC)

ORGANIZED VOICES FOR RURAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH

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