

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



Angela McLean
LT. GOVERNOR

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Jon Tester
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604

The Honorable Steve Daines
1 Russell Senate Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Representative Zinke:

I ask for your help in reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS). Montana's schools, roads and fire prevention efforts will lose \$16,197,368 this year in SRS funds if the act is not reauthorized. As the State's congressional delegation, I implore you to work together to reauthorize this program as soon as possible so that Montana schools and counties do not suffer.

As you know, the Administration had proposed a five-year reauthorization for the SRS program in the fiscal year 2015. The 113th Congress did not reauthorize this critical program, however, resulting in its expiration in September of last year. Montana's rural schools and counties have come to rely on SRS funding—more than \$18,000,000 statewide—to support public schools and critical county roads. I ask that its immediate reauthorization be of the utmost priority in your work in Congress, and as Montana's congressional delegation, I ask that you work together to bring this to the forefront of the agenda in Washington, DC.

Montana's schools and counties will be hit hard. Many county roads will lose the necessary funding for maintenance and many schools will be suffering huge budget shortfalls. In fact, thirty-four of Montana's fifty-six counties will be affected. I have enclosed a table which lists how much each of these counties will be losing for their schools and county roads. Beaverhead, Flathead, Lincoln, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties will all be losing more than \$1,000,000 each. I know that each of you share my commitment to the livelihoods of Montanans and the livelihoods of our communities. That is why I am asking for your help in reauthorizing the program.

More than \$16,000,000 is no small loss to Montana communities. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help your efforts in securing this funding for Montana's schools and counties.

Sincerely,



STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Anticipated Reduction in Title I Payments¹ (Two-third County roads, one-third County schools)	
County	Title I Payment
Beaverhead	-\$1,028,810
Broadwater	-\$209,042
Carbon	-\$4,193
Carter	-\$78,537
Cascade	-\$96,824
Chouteau	-\$23,860
Deer Lodge	-\$203,092
Fergus	-\$82,326
Flathead	-\$1,178,324
Gallatin	-\$365,258
Glacier	-\$33,368
Golden Valley	-\$14,446
Granite	-\$591,555
Jefferson	-\$227,055
Judith Basin	-\$174,668
Lake	-\$16,826
Lewis & Clark	-\$548,689
Lincoln	-\$3,665,511
Madison	-\$515,485
Meagher	-\$391,824
Mineral	-\$909,323
Missoula	-\$628,007
Park	-\$492,060
Pondera	-\$74,239
Powder River	-\$338,729
Powell	-\$846,762
Ravalli	-\$1,075,468
Rosebud	-\$66,009
Sanders	-\$1,651,397
Silver Bow	-\$97,107
Stillwater	-\$98,392
Sweet Grass	-\$277,815
Teton	-\$123,018
Wheatland	-\$69,350
Montana	-\$16,197,368
¹ Includes 7.3% Sequester reduction	