**Sample Letter to the Editor: Secure Rural Schools**

With students heading back to school soon, the impacts and consequences of decisions made by elected officials on schools will be apparent. Decisions made in Washington and in state capitals determine how much aid local governments can expect in the years ahead. Congress must reauthorize a significant number of programs before September 30. I urge Congressman/Senator [First/Last Name] to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program before September 30.

The SRS program provides crucial support to national forest counties for local schools, transportation infrastructure, law enforcement and other services. Should Congress not reauthorize SRS, [Name] County will face a budget shortfall that will impact our ability to provide these essential services to residents and visitors. [Name] County is one of more than 720 counties nationwide receiving SRS funding, impacting nine million students across 41 states. The SRS program continues to be a critical support system for forest counties as we work to diversify rural economies, improve forest health, and strengthen historic forest revenue sharing with local governments.

I urge Congressman/Senator [First/Last Name] to ensure SRS is reauthorized immediately.