RESOLUTION OF THE SITKA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution No. 2018-02

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization

The Sitka School Board supports Alaska House Joint Resolution 29 and urges immediate reauthorization and funding for fiscal year 2019 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. Furthermore, the Sitka School Board urges multi-year reauthorization and mandatory funding of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA) by the U.S. Congress as a key component of federal financial assistance to local governments and school districts across the country. This law recognizes the need for sustained funding to school districts that have non-taxable national forest lands within their boundaries.

The Secure Rural Schools Act is critically important to many rural school districts such as Sitka which have relied heavily on Secure Rural School funds to supplement local revenue for education. The Sitka School District resides in the Sitka Borough which is comprised of 95% Tongass National Forest. The impact of a National Forest that no longer provides adequate revenue to help support local schools and roads places an onerous burden upon our local citizenry that cannot be ameliorated without Federal assistance.

It is imperative for many national forested counties and school districts that have no ability to generate local tax revenue to support schools and roads that this act is immediately reauthorized and funded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sitka School Board urges the support of Alaska House Joint Resolution 29 to remind lawmakers back in Washington D.C. the importance of continual support of local communities.

Approved on February 6, 2018

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Jennifer McNichol, President, Sitka School Board

“Educating our children to realize their potential and contribute in a connected global society.”