

**Allegheny Forest Alliance**  
PO Box 88  
Ridgway, PA 15853

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AlleghenyForestAlliance.org



*Representing the counties, schools and municipalities of the Allegheny National Forest region.*

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January 17, 2025

Senator John Fetterman  
142 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Legislation

Dear Senator Fetterman,

We are writing to urgently request your assistance in securing the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) in the U.S. Senate.

As you know, although the Senate passed a bill to reauthorize SRS in November 2024, it did not make it to a floor vote in the House. The attached letter to Congressman Glenn Thompson (PA-15) urges his leadership, as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and Representative for the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) region, in achieving reauthorization in the House as soon as possible. We ask that you work with Senator McCormick and your other colleagues who represent national forest communities to urge Senate leadership to once again quickly pass SRS reauthorization legislation.

The 513,000+ acres of the ANF occupies large portions of its four host counties (Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren), having a significant impact on their tax bases and economies. Forest County chose the higher but riskier SRS funding because the 25% funding has been reduced so drastically. The 2016 lapse in reauthorization hit the county hard, and this lapse will likely hit even harder when combined with current economic conditions.

Please see the enclosed letter for more on the impacts in Forest County if SRS is not quickly reauthorized. We are happy to provide more information, if that would be helpful, and thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Julia McCray  
Executive Director

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