

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 through federal fiscal year 2016 and to fund the Act with a mandatory, continuing appropriation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Progress of federal legislation
- Possibility of class action lawsuit to provide lost funding

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to stabilize payments to counties for schools and roads and to improve forest ecosystems. Historically, Congress has shared revenue generated from federal forest lands with local governments in recognition of the fact that federal ownership of forestlands deprives counties of revenue they would have if the land were privately owned and that counties also provide services that benefit this land. As compensation for the land being exempt from taxation and for local services, Congress shares a portion of the revenue from its forestland.