

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Hass, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Walker
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Dana Richardson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Expresses support for all rural Oregonians and urges support for reauthorization and extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services
- Open campus in rural areas
- Remedies mentioned in the measure
- County responsibilities including administration of elections
- Domino effect of counties defaulting

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393) 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 if the land were privately owned and that the counties also provide services that benefit this land.

In October 2007, the House Interim Committee on Rural Policy toured eastern Oregon to hear from county officials relating to the possible loss of funds from P.L. 106-393. At each stop, elected officials and county staff acknowledged limited funds for government services in general, but all stated they work hard to spend wisely or use creative partnerships to provide services. The two common themes were the need for more economic development and the importance of natural resources to rural communities.