



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-4

For the meeting of: January 13, 2015

Date: January 6, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn

Subject: Adoption of Resolutions Urging the 114th Congress of the United States to Reauthorize long-term funding for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) and Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the Resolutions and forward copies to Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist, RCRC, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The RCRC Governmental Affairs team is executing a campaign in the first quarter of 2015 urging the 114th Congress to reauthorize SRS, and provide long-term, stable source of funding for counties. The Campaign efforts are dependent upon a large contingent of RCRC member counties participating through the adoption of Resolutions at the county level.

The urgency is necessary as the timeline for advocating on behalf of reauthorization for SRS is most effective in the upcoming weeks. While Federal PILT was funded for 2015, RCRC will be pursuing a long-term reauthorization as discussions advance later in the year. RCRC is recommending that member counties adopt the SRS and PILT Resolutions to assist RCRC in advocacy efforts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: SRS and PILT Resolutions.

Prepared by	Kathy Hayes	Signature	
REVIEW:			
Auditor	County Counsel	Personnel	Risk Manager
Other			
TYPE OF ITEM:			
☒ XX	Consent		
☐	Departmental		
☐	Public Hearing		
☐	Other		
PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:			
Board Order No.			
Meeting of:			

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Sundberg seconded by Supervisor Bohn

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bess
Nays
Abstain
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: January 13, 2015
By: Kathy Hayes

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
RESOLUTION FOR RCRC-MEMBER COUNTY ADOPTION

RESOLUTION # _____

WHEREAS, Counties across the United States expressed concern that large areas of land designated under the 1891 Forest Reserve Act would no longer be available for economic development, thwarting all future tax proceeds intended to support local community development; and

WHEREAS, Congress took action to mitigate the impact on county government, and in 1907 began providing counties with 10 percent of gross receipts from timber harvests in national forests to help offset the revenue loss, which then grew to more than 25 percent through enactment of the National Forest Revenue Act of 1908 to support county roads and public schools; and

WHEREAS, From 1908 to 2000, the United States Forest Service managed forest resources on national forest lands for long-term revenues and during that same period of time counties across the United States shared in these revenues in lieu of tax revenues that could have otherwise been generated had these lands remained in private hands; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the volume and value of timber harvested on national forest lands was drastically reduced, which led Congress to enact the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.), which provided a six-year guarantee payment option that was independent of the revenue generated on the national forest lands; and

WHEREAS, The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which has been extended several times, most recently by the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-40), expired on September 30, 2013, resulting in a lapse in funding in 2014 and future years to critical programs in schools and counties across the United States, including California; and

WHEREAS, California's forested counties and schools located within those counties are dependent on federal revenue-sharing programs, including federal forest payments, for maintaining local roads, and providing vital local services and programs; and

WHEREAS, County public works programs will be crippled without stable, predictable, long-term funding supported by the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, causing the local road network to suffer long-term degradation, and putting communities at risk for public safety emergencies due to cuts in staffing and operational activities; and

WHEREAS, A number of efforts were made in the 113th Congress in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to reauthorize the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for counties and schools to maintain vital programs and avoid any interruption in county services and school operations.

Estelle Fennell, Chair

Adopted on motion by Supervisor _____, Seconded by Supervisor _____, and the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, ANA HARTWELL, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.

ANA HARTWELL, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, State of California

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of January 13, 2015

**FEDERAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM
RESOLUTION FOR RCRC-MEMBER COUNTY ADOPTION**

RESOLUTION # 15-15

WHEREAS, Much of the land in the western United States is owned by the federal government, and it is common that some counties located in the west have more than 90 percent of their jurisdiction occupied by federal land; and

WHEREAS, Because this land is now held by the United States Government, it is removed from the local property tax rolls and exempt from local property tax; and

WHEREAS, A number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, account for nearly 640 million acres owned and occupied in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1976 Congress passed and President Ford signed legislation to create the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program (PL 94-565) to provide payments to counties and other local governments to offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of tax-exempt federal land within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program replaces the lost property tax revenue and provides county government funding for essential services such as law enforcement, firefighting, search-and-rescue operations, construction and maintenance of roads, and other vital services; and

WHEREAS, Specifically, PILT payments are a missing critical piece of our General Fund budget for public safety and other needed public service programs for county residents; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program was reformed in 2008 under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (PL 110-343) to modify the program from a discretionary program which is subject to annual appropriations of Congress to a fully-funded mandatory program until Federal Fiscal Year 2012; and

WHEREAS, There have been two one-year reauthorizations, the most recent as part of the enactment of both H.R. 3979, the National Defense Authorization Act, and H.R. 83, the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus Spending Bill, which, when combined, provide nearly \$450 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2015 funding for the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program; and

WHEREAS, A number of efforts were made in the 113th Congress in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to reauthorize the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program for several consecutive years as a mandatory program in order for counties to budget accordingly;

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of January 13, 2015

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program for several years, commencing with Federal Fiscal Year 2016, in order to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for counties in order to maintain vital programs and avoid any interruption in county services.



Estelle Fennell, Chair

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Sundberg, Seconded by Supervisor Bohn, and the following vote:

AYES: Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass

NAYS:

ABSENT:

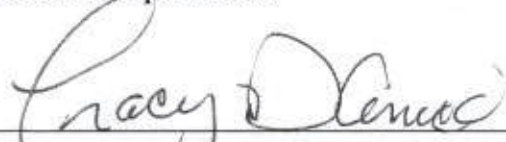
ABSTAIN:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

County of Humboldt)

I, TRACY DAMICO, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the Seal of said
Board of Supervisors.



TRACY DAMICO, Deputy Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
RESOLUTION FOR RCRC-MEMBER COUNTY ADOPTION

RESOLUTION # 15-16

WHEREAS, Counties across the United States expressed concern that large areas of land designated under the 1891 Forest Reserve Act would no longer be available for economic development, thwarting all future tax proceeds intended to support local community development; and

WHEREAS, Congress took action to mitigate the impact on county government, and in 1907 began providing counties with 10 percent of gross receipts from timber harvests in national forests to help offset the revenue loss, which then grew to more than 25 percent through enactment of the National Forest Revenue Act of 1908 to support county roads and public schools; and

WHEREAS, From 1908 to 2000, the United States Forest Service managed forest resources on national forest lands for long-term revenues and during that same period of time counties across the United States shared in these revenues in lieu of tax revenues that could have otherwise been generated had these lands remained in private hands; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the volume and value of timber harvested on national forest lands was drastically reduced, which led Congress to enact the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.), which provided a six-year guarantee payment option that was independent of the revenue generated on the national forest lands; and

WHEREAS, The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which has been extended several times, most recently by the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-40), expired on September 30, 2013, resulting in a lapse in funding in 2014 and future years to critical programs in schools and counties across the United States, including California; and

WHEREAS, California's forested counties and schools located within those counties are dependent on federal revenue-sharing programs, including federal forest payments, for maintaining local roads, and providing vital local services and programs; and

WHEREAS, County public works programs will be crippled without stable, predictable, long-term funding supported by the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, causing the local road network to suffer long-term degradation, and putting communities at risk for public safety emergencies due to cuts in staffing and operational activities; and

WHEREAS, A number of efforts were made in the 113th Congress in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to reauthorize the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Act.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting on January 13, 2015

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for counties and schools to maintain vital programs and avoid any interruption in county services and school operations.



Estelle Fennell, Chair

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Sundberg , Seconded by Supervisor Bohn, and the following vote:

AYES: Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass

NAYS:

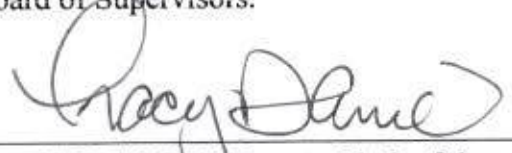
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, TRACY DAMICO, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the Seal of said
Board of Supervisors.



TRACY DAMICO Deputy Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California