*Pend Oreille County*

# *Board of Commissioners*

*Karen Skoog*
District #1

*Mike Manus*
District #2

*Stephen Kiss*
District # 3

*Rhonda Cary*
*Clerk of the Board*

*Phone: 509-447-4119*
*FAX: 509 447-0595*

*PO Box 5025*
*Newport, WA 99156-5025*

*E-mail: commissionersoffice@pendoreille.org*

December 4, 2017

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Hatch/Wyden SRS Leadership letter

Dear Senator Cantwell:

The Board of County Commissioners, and as part of the National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition, request your support in signing the Hatch/Wyden letter to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer urging the inclusion of at least a two-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program in any end-of-the-year bill or omnibus package.

The SRS program is critical for essential services in forest counties, schools, and communities. In addition to losing SRS funded services, if SRS is not continued by Congress in this session, rural counties receiving payments through the PILT program will face reduced PILT payments.

Nearly 60% of Pend Oreille County is public lands. If Congress does not reauthorize SRS, funding that sustains our schools, our rural communities and our forests could disappear.

Please sign the Hatch/Wyden SRS Leadership letter by contacting either or both of the following:

Senator Orrin Hatch, (202) 224-3316, Romel_Nicholas@Hatch.senate.gov
Senator Ron Wyden, (202) 224-1119, Malcolm_McGeary@Wyden.senate.gov

Thank you in advance for your advocacy to this important program. The coalition members appreciate your interest and support for the Secure Rural Schools program.

Sincerely,

Karen Skoog, Chair

Stephen Kiss, Vice Chair

Absent

Mike Manus, Member