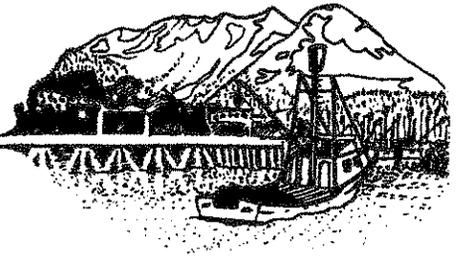


CITY OF CORDOVA



September 9, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Congressman Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio:

An extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, more commonly referred to as the Timber Receipts program, is vital to the sustainability of local school funding in Cordova, Alaska. I urge you to vote for the passage of H.R. 1526 which extends the act.

Cordova is an isolated Southcentral Alaska community that relies on natural resources for economic stability. Often in counties across America, school district funding is a hot topic especially during a downturned economy. Earmarking revenue sources such as property taxes is a common means to an end elsewhere to keep struggling districts funded to the most basic levels. Land is particularly valuable in Cordova because as vast as the landscape is, there is little private land available. The Chugach National Forest surrounds our community which is obviously not available for private ownership and provides little aid in economic development to businesses interested in relocating or families interested in building homes. The City of Cordova walks a tightrope in trying to keep business and citizens in town when taxes are high and room for economic development is limited when larger Alaska cities have become much more affordable places to live. Great school districts with high-ranking and performing students and teachers help to retain and attract families and business. Great school districts are funded at high levels to attract and keep good teachers and provide as many opportunities to the students as possible. The Secure Rural Schools Funding has been Cordova's answer to the school funding dilemma. Our schools and students have flourished under this time of Secure Rural Schools funding.

The community of Cordova and other remote villages in Prince William Sound have also benefited greatly from SRS Title II funding. Along with meeting SRS Title II program goals of watershed restoration and restoring recreational facilities, projects supported with those funds have employed local residents, engaged contractors, and helped purchase supplies in our communities.

Cordova's economy is holding steady and people and businesses are gradually moving in or at least staying. Cordova can hope to prosper only with the continuation of this vital program. Please help make our small town's voice heard in Washington and do whatever you can to aid our sustainability with your vote and encouragement to others when it comes to the passage of H.R. 1526 which would extend the Secure Rural Schools funding to our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Kacsh'.

Jim Kacsh, Mayor
City of Cordova, Alaska