



**Barbara U'Ren,
Superintendent**

**David Snyder, Director of
Business Services**

September 9, 2013

Dear Congressman Paul Gosar,

On behalf of the students and teachers of our district, I wish to thank you for your leadership in HR 1526. We ask for your continued support of HR 1526 and are asking that it be placed on a floor calendar for consideration.

HR 1526, The Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities Act is extremely important to rural communities, and the Secure Rural Schools Bill in particular is critical to rural schools.

H.R 1526 provides a common sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management where the planned harvest can occur in a reasonable amount of time. We do appreciate that the legislation allows for a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. Secure Rural Schools provides funding for core government responsibilities, including public safety, transportation, and education. School districts use Secure Rural Schools as supplemental funding for capital construction, communication upgrades, technology, and programs for students. Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District has used this funding to ensure kindergartners are afforded the advantage of a full-day extension program to prepare them future academic success and to prepare our technology to meet the needs of the new state mandated assessment.

For long term social and financial health of rural forested communities, we must have the family base income and jobs that can be provided by a healthy forest products industry and strong rural schools. Please show your support to our nation's forests and Arizona's rural schools by supporting HR 1526.

Sincerely

Barbara U'Ren
Superintendent, Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District

Governing Board Members:

M. Jason Finger ♦ JoAnne Cook ♦ Marv Lamer ♦ Janice Rollins ♦ Mary Valenzuela

"Preparing Students for the 21st Century through tradition, experience and opportunities."