



February 20, 2022

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
400 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 205125

Dear Congressman Thompson:

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association represents more than 4,500 local school board members from school districts in every corner of Pennsylvania. We are writing to you in strong support of H.R. 6435, bipartisan legislation to make technical corrections to the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, which was reauthorized by the recently passed infrastructure law.

H.R. 6435 would allow counties that receive SRS payments or timber harvest payments to continue to have local control and flexibility over how those payments are received and ultimately spent. In Pennsylvania, the element of local control is critical to Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties, which all receive significant funds as part of these programs. In particular, Forest County annually contributes a range of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 from these funds to Forest Area School District – often as much as 10 percent of the total school system budget.

This legislation preserves long standing, commonsense local control. We appreciate the work of the House Agriculture Committee to report the bill with unanimous consent and urge swift passage. Thank you for your service, support, and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Callahan  
Chief Advocacy Officer  
Pennsylvania School Boards Association