THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - Q

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program is a Federal funding mechanism established to compensate local governments for tax exempt US Forest Service lands located in their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the SRS program was established to provide counties with funding for schools and roads, and to make investments in and create employment opportunities through projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure;

WHEREAS, prior to 2000, under the SRS program, rural counties and schools received 25% of the revenues generated from timber sales from our national forests;

WHEREAS, dependence on timber sales was destructive to communities depending on the forests for clean drinking water;

WHEREAS, Congress changed the SRS funding system for counties and schools in 2000, and replaced revenue sharing from timber sales with guaranteed payments that were no longer tied to the amount of timber produced from the National Forests;

WHEREAS, SRS funding provides consistent and reliable funding for over 775 rural counties and 4,400 schools located near national forests across the United States and helps pay for restoration and stewardship projects on our public lands and forests;

WHEREAS, SRS payments can be used by counties for specified purposes, in accordance with recommendations of resource advisory committees for projects on federal lands;

WHEREAS, SRS funding may be used to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program to provide homeowners in fire-sensitive eco-systems education on and assistance with implementing techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping, that increase the protection of people and property from wildfires; and

WHEREAS, SRS funding may be used to reimburse participating counties for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting performed on Federal land and development of community wildfire protection plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County respectfully requests ongoing Secure Rural Schools program funding so that Santa Fe County will continue to receive funding for much needed projects and services that are not be possible without SRS funds.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED THIS _____ day of August 2014.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By:

Daniel W. Mayfield,

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

OFFICOUNTY OF COUNTY OF THE CO

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney



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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 14TH Day Of August, 2014 at 02:15:37 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1743587 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy Clerk, Santa Fe, NM