



## Rural County Representatives of California: Legislative Asks

### **Rural Broadband**

Many of California's rural counties have low population densities and difficult terrain that will discourage private firms from deploying broadband technology without a federal incentive. RCRC urges Congress to enact the necessary funding, including funding for an updated broadband coverage map, to close the gaps in rural broadband coverage.

### **SRS Endowment**

RCRC is urging members to support the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act, introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) on December 13, 2018, to provide much-needed financial certainty for rural counties under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. This legislation creates an endowment fund to provide stable, increasing and reliable funding for county services. Senator Wyden plans to reintroduce the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act in early 2019.

### **SAFE Act**

Rural California is urging members to support the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (Safe Banking Act, or SAFE Act), introduced by Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) and Denny Heck (D-WA). The bill would liberalize federal banking laws to allow cannabis-related businesses access to financial services. The SAFE Act would provide financial security for a booming industry for rural California.

### **Infrastructure**

RCRC urges Congress to adopt a comprehensive infrastructure package that invests in more than roads and bridges, but also waste and water projects, water storage, and broadband deployment. Rural America requires infrastructure legislation that does not leave state and local governments with the financial burden of building new infrastructure. Infrastructure legislation should include massive federal investments delivered directly to counties and other local governments to ensure funds are equally distributed across the U.S.

### **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

It is imperative for the financial certainty of rural counties that Congress continues to fully fund the federal payment in lieu of taxes program in Fiscal 2020. PILT allows rural counties to offset property taxes lost due to nontaxable federal lands within their jurisdiction. RCRC requests Congress to enact a sustainable long-term funding solution.