

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio responded to President Obama's budget for fiscal year 2013. Following are DeFazio's remarks:

“The president’s budget includes over \$294 million for Secure Rural Schools as part of a five year reauthorization. He also designates county payments as a mandatory program, ensuring that this critical lifeline to rural Oregon counties will not be held hostage by the hyper-partisanship plaguing Congress over the last year.

This support from the president is helpful, but time is running short for Oregon’s forested communities that face crushing unemployment. Rural Oregon counties have already been forced to make serious cuts in funding for schools, law enforcement and other essential county services. We need a short-term reauthorization of SRS to keep counties afloat like the president has offered. But we also need a long term sustainable forest management strategy that will create thousands of jobs, stabilize funding for timber dependent communities, and restore forest health. I will continue to fight for the bipartisan proposal that Representatives Schrader, Walden and I have agreed to and that would accomplish all of these goals.”

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