

**CITY OF SENECA  
RESOLUTION 2001-01**

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE  
"SECURE RURAL SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION  
ACT OF 2000"**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed S 1608/HR 2389; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Congress was to mitigate the loss of, and restore stability and predictability to, annual payments made to states and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the benefit of public schools, roads and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, it was also the clear intent of Congress that such funds be used to enhance funding of schools, particularly rural schools and county roads and not be used to "backfill" a withdrawal of state funds; and

WHEREAS, under Oregon's school funding arrangement these additional forest receipts are considered as a recourse for purposes of the school equalization funding formula and therefore do not remain with the school districts in whose county the national forests are located; and

WHEREAS, this school funding arrangement creates the potential for conflict with the intent of S 1608/HR 2389 by providing the opportunity for the State to backfill its funding of education with these additional federal funds and prevent the benefit from being fully realized by school districts of Oregon; and

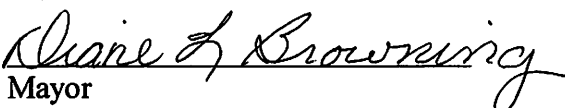
WHEREAS, in a number of other occasions the State has allowed local resources such as Strategic Investment Fees, local option property taxes, payments to schools by counties, capital facilities grants, to remain outside the funding formula and benefit particularly needed school districts thereby;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Seneca City Council endorses the following principles regarding the use of federal forest receipts provided under S 1608/HR 2389:

That no change be made in the current formula of allocating National Forest receipts between county roads and schools; and

That the portion of the new level of federal payments made to Oregon that is designated for public schools in accordance with this law be outside the school equalization formula and remain with the local districts in a manner determined by the 2001 Oregon Legislature.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2001.

  
Mayor

Attest   
City Recorder

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# The City of Seneca

Phone & fax  
(541)542-2161

P.O. Box 208  
106 A Avenue  
Seneca, OR 97873

March 6, 2001

Dear Government Official;

*The City of Seneca City Council is writing to enlist your support in a matter of great importance to school districts in our counties.*

*Congress recently passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000 (S.1608 and HR.2389). The bill is intended to provide a stable source of supplemental funding for Oregon's counties and communities that have been hard hit by decreases in federal timber revenues.*

*Governor Kitzhaber, however, is recommending that the funds garnered from this bill be included in the school equalization formula, which means that these funds would be distributed to all schools in Oregon, regardless of need, at an average increase of \$21 per student. Unfortunately, this will not help our counties that have been hardest hit by decreases in federal timber revenues.*

*It is our belief that Gov. Kitzhaber should honor the intention of Congress that the new funds be used to supplement other available funds for schools and roads. Congress clearly intended that these funds should not be used to offset available education funds and to backfill state coffers.*

*City of Seneca's City Council has adopted the enclosed resolution and has sent it to Governor Kitzhaber, President of the Senate Gene Derfler, and House Speaker Mark Simmons (see addresses below). We urge you to do the same and urge your legislators to make the commitment to honor the intent of Congress.*

*Sincerely,*

*City of Seneca City Council*

*Gov. John Kitzhaber  
254 State Capitol  
Salem OR 97310*

*Sen. Gene Derfler  
900 Court St NE  
Ste 203  
Salem OR 97310*

*Rep. Mark Simmons  
900 Court St NE  
Rm 269  
Salem OR 97310*

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