



National District Attorneys Association
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.549.9222/703.863.3195 Fax
www.ndaa.org

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING OF
PL 106-393, THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SELF
DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000**

WHEREAS, from the late 1890's through the early 1900's county forestlands were assigned to the Forest Reserves by the federal government thereby prohibiting the use of the acreage by localities for economic development; and

WHEREAS, because the creation of the Forest Reserves imposed an economic hardship on the localities that relied on those lands for the generation of income, legislation was enacted in 1908 to provide that 25% of revenue collected from those forestlands would be provided to the respective counties for, in part, the improvement of rural schools; roads; and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act was enacted to address the decrease in revenues resulting from a reduction in timber harvesting since 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act of 2000 has had a positive impact on the development of forest health improvement projects; the stimulation of economic development; and the restoration of critical rural county infrastructure including law enforcement and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of this revenue sharing program will negatively impact localities throughout the country with the most significant economic effects occurring in the western and southeastern sections of the nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National District Attorneys Association urges the Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act of 2000; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the National District Attorneys Association urges the Congress to extend funding for the program over the next five fiscal years to allow the impacted localities to continue to develop forest health improvement projects; to improve rural county roads, schools, and critical infrastructure such as law enforcement and prosecution; and to allow counties to prepare for the permanent loss of income.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 14, 2007 (Amelia Island, Florida)
2007-_____ SPR