

TO: Association Member Counties

FROM: Rocky McVay, Executive Director
Kevin Davis, Legal Counsel

DATE: December 5, 2009

RE: Economic Impact If Safety-Net Is Not Reauthorized

Enclosed is information that we hope will be helpful to you in discussing the economic impact to your community and our State if PL110-343, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, is not modified before it reaches its final year (FFY 2011), and particularly if it is not continued after what is now scheduled to be its final year.

It is important that businesses in your community, especially large, regional and national businesses and financial institutions, understand that not only will county services be dramatically slashed, but so will county and other jobs. The businesses in your community need to understand that a large number of county and other employees would be unable to purchase goods and services, and the economic impact would be felt directly by those businesses.

Our hope is that you will copy and then take this information to meetings with local representatives for each of the regional and national business organizations (Walmart, Safeway, Wells Fargo, etc.) in your area, and also the leadership of your local business organization (such as the Chamber of Commerce). The local representatives of the regional and national businesses need to communicate to their corporate headquarters the impact that the decline and loss of PL 110-343 would have on their particular stores and local businesses. They need to be aware of the economic impact the loss of these county and other jobs would have on them.

Communicating these concerns to the Oregon congressional delegation is also important. In the case of the national business organizations, asking their national officers and lobbyists (if they have them) to communicate this message to Congress is imperative.

Please set up these meetings and ask business leaders in your community to convey these concerns to their regional and national headquarters.