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March 30, 2007

U.S. Senate Approves Funding for Rural OR Schools and Communities

Curry County, OR - Oregon's rural schools and communities are set to receive an estimated 1.8-billion dollars over the next five years after the U.S. Senate approved the extension of county payments this week. Comments from Peg Reagan (REE-gan), former Curry County Commissioner with the Conservation Leaders Network.

Suggested Script: The economic outlook for Oregon's rural counties is brighter today after a U.S. Senate vote to extend payments to rural counties. The state is set to receive an estimated 1-point-8 billion dollars over the next five years after Senators voted this week to fully reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. Peg Reagan, former Curry County Commissioner with the Conservation Leaders Network says it provides vital funding for Oregon schools and communities.

Actuality Cut 87%%ID%% (TRT :07) "All Oregonians are going to get a good benefit out of it because it's going to be funding a lot of county services that every Oregonian uses."

Suggested Tag: In addition to school funding, the county payments also fund National Forest restoration, road projects, public health, law enforcement and libraries. The payments are compensation for states that have a lot of federal land that can't be taxed. The House still has to authorize the five year extension.

Alternate Cut: Peg Reagan, former Curry County Commissioner with the Conservation Leaders Network says without this funding rural schools would flounder.

Actuality Cut 88%%ID%% (TRT :05) "It's critical. They have to have that funding in order to provide education to all of our kids. They can't do it without it." (ends)

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite.

Lead: The economic outlook for Oregon's rural counties is brighter today after a U.S. Senate vote to extend payments to rural counties. Dondrea Warner reports.

Wrap is Cut 89%%ID%% (TRT :32) "...five year extension."

Editor's Note: Reagan and the Conservation Leaders Network are at 541-247-8079.

Still available: scripts and sound on the web page, or call toll free # and use the 2 digit cut # followed by %%ID%%

Cuts 84-86 Closing the Door on Payday Lenders in Oregon-Curran

Cuts 96-98 Oregon Senate Ethics Package - "Keeping the Fox Out of the Henhouse"-Thompson/Brown

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