

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2026

Dirk Slooten
Mayor
14050 Olympic Drive
Clearlake, CA 95422

Dear Mayor Slooten:

We respectfully request that Clearlake endorse the **Revitalize Rural America Act**, bipartisan legislation to strengthen rural communities, improve access to essential services, and support local economies.

As local leaders, you understand the challenges facing rural communities. Limited staffing can make it difficult to compete for federal funding, vacancies can strain essential services, and shortages of health care providers and affordable housing can make it harder for families to remain in the communities they call home. Local governments need federal policy that recognizes these challenges and help address them.

Our legislation would provide practical support for local governments and the residents they serve by:

- **Helping rural governments secure federal resources.** Expand technical assistance for communities applying for grants, loans, and other programs.
- **Strengthening the public workforce:** Provide tax relief for qualifying rural public employees and student loan forgiveness for rural public service to help recruit and retain essential workers.
- **Improving access to health care:** Expand telehealth, support physician recruitment in underserved communities, and create a tax credit to help rural hospitals retain employees.
- **Support housing and disaster resilience:** Expand access to housing tax credits and help property owners protect their homes and businesses against wildfires and other natural disasters.
- **Sustaining local agriculture:** Provide tax relief for qualifying farmland sales to young farmers or family members, helping keep agricultural land locally owned.

These investments would help local governments deliver services, support employers, and create opportunities for the next generation to build a future in rural America. They reflect a shared commitment to ensure that rural communities have the resources they need to succeed.

We respectfully request that you consider adopting a resolution or otherwise endorse the Revitalize Rural America Act. Your support would help demonstrate the importance of this legislation to the local governments responsible for meeting rural residents' needs every day.

Thank you for your service to the local community and for considering this request. We look forward to our continued work together to strengthen rural communities.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



James Gallagher
Member of Congress