

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2861

To amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to clarify the prohibition on the use of certain Federal funds for lobbying, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to clarify the prohibition on the use of certain Federal funds for lobbying, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. USE OF COUNTY FUNDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Secure Rural  
5 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
6 (16 U.S.C. 7142) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by redesignating  
 2 subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and  
 3 (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “para-  
 5 graph (2)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)”;

6 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
 7 through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D),  
 8 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

9 (D) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 10 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “A partici-  
 11 pating” and inserting the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A participating”; and

13 (E) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(2) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with section  
 15 1913 of title 18, United States Code, county funds  
 16 shall not be used for—

17 “(A) any expense relating to lobbying; or

18 “(B) any activity the purpose of which is  
 19 to influence a State or Federal lawmaker.”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(c) RULEMAKING.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
 23 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
 24 Chief of the Forest Service, in coordination with the  
 25 Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall

1 promulgate regulations providing guidance for par-  
2 ticipating counties on the appropriate use of county  
3 funds.

4 “(2) PUBLICATION.—The Chief of the Forest  
5 Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land  
6 Management shall publish the guidance under para-  
7 graph (1) on a publicly available website of the For-  
8 est Service and the Bureau of Land Management,  
9 respectively.”.

10 (b) REPORTS.—Section 303 of the Secure Rural  
11 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
12 (16 U.S.C. 7143) is amended by adding at the end the  
13 following:

14 “(c) SUMMARY REPORTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating county  
16 shall submit to the Secretary concerned an annual  
17 report summarizing the certification submitted  
18 under subsection (a) for the relevant year, including  
19 a brief description of how the participating county  
20 used county funds during the year covered by the re-  
21 port.

22 “(2) SUBMISSION.—A participating county shall  
23 submit a report under paragraph (1) at such time,  
24 in such manner, and containing such information as  
25 the Secretary concerned may require.

1           “(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary  
2           concerned shall make each report submitted under  
3           paragraph (1) publicly available online in a machine-  
4           readable format.”.

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