TEMPLATE LETTER – PLEASE PLACE ON HOSPITAL LETTERHEAD AND ADD ANY HOSPITAL-SPECIFIC DETAILS YOU THINK MIGHT BE HELPFUL

February XX, 2024

**Subject:** **Rural Health Care Facilities Revitalization Act (H.R. 5989)**

Dear [INSERT RECIPIENT]:

NAME OF YOUR HOSPITAL in NAME OF COMMUNITY has been serving residents and visitors for XXX years, providing life-saving and life-changing care that if not for our hospital would otherwise take miles and precious time to access.

Today, these services, like those provided to millions of Californians in rural communities, are at risk.

NAME OF HOSPITAL, like so many other small and rural hospitals, is struggling with dwindling resources and payments that simply don’t cover the cost of services.

Many small and rural hospitals have seen their operating margin drop by a frightening 8% from 2019 to 2023. This is a national trend. Between January 2013 and February 2020, more than 100 rural hospitals closed, including two in California — Corcoran District Hospital and Madera Community Hospital.

If NAME OF HOSPITAL were forced to close or reduce services to keep our doors open, those in poor health, seniors, and people experiencing poverty would suffer the most (the national median poverty rate for rural communities with a hospital closure is 13%). In addition, residents would be forced to travel greater distances just to access the most common health care services.

INSERT ANY ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL-SPECIFIC DETAILS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL

We write today to ask for your support and cosponsorship of the Rural Health Care Facilities Revitalization Act (H.R. 5989), which would allow community facility loans and loan guarantees under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be used by rural health care facilities.

This funding will help keep hospital doors open to serve rural communities across the country and in California. The USDA has helped many rural hospitals stay open via their Rural Development Program. H.R. 5989 makes minor adjustments to this existing, proven, and cost-effective program that will make a major difference.

SIGNATURE LINE