

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum

As the Appropriations Committee begins its work to set fiscal priorities for FY 2018, we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded.

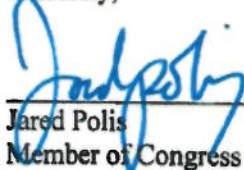
PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. These dollars go toward supporting many critical services that counties are required to provide on federal public lands, despite their inability to collect property taxes on federal lands.

Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2018, we risk severely crippling counties' ability to provide essential services for tourists and residents such as law enforcement, search and rescue, education, road maintenance and public health.

As counties across the United States work to balance their budgets, it is essential that we act to reaffirm the federal government's long-standing commitment to public lands counties by fully funding PILT. Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term and sustainable solution to fully fund PILT in FY 2018 and beyond.

We look forward to working with you to end the financial uncertainty facing thousands of counties nationwide, and we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress




Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress


David G. Valadao
Member of Congress


Mike Simpson
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
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Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
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Doug Lamborn
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Kurt Schrader
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Stevan Pearce
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Kristi Noem
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
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Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Will Hurd
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Bill Foster
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Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress