

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

As the Appropriations Committee begins its work to set fiscal priorities for FY 2017, we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded. The U.S. Department of the Interior has estimated that \$480 million dollars will be necessary to fully fund PILT in FY 2017.

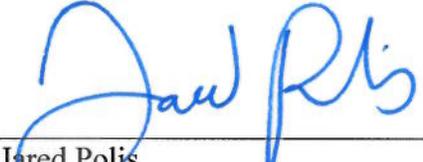
PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. These dollars go toward supporting many critical services that counties are required to provide on federal public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

Current discretionary appropriations for the PILT program are set to expire on September 30, 2016. Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2017, we risk severely crippling counties' ability to provide essential services for tourists and residents such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health.

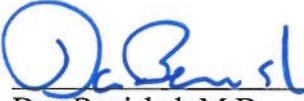
Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term and sustainable solution to fully fund PILT in FY17 and beyond. As counties across the United States work to balance their budgets, it is essential that we act to reaffirm the federal government's long-standing commitment to public lands counties by fully funding PILT.

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,



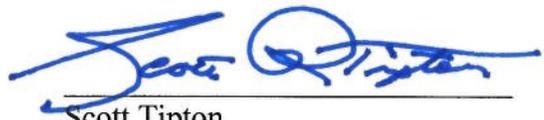
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress

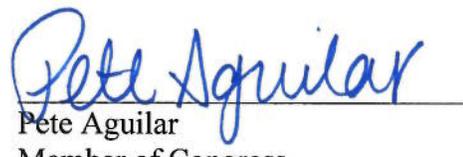

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

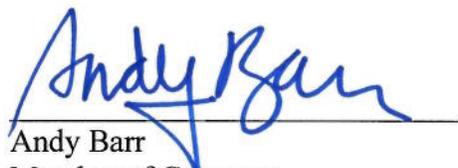

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

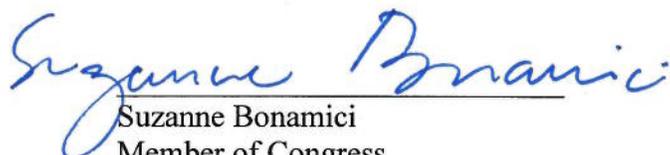

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress


Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

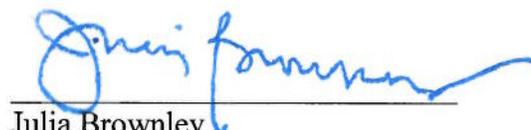

Andy Barr
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Earl Blumenauer
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Madeleine Bordallo
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Mo Brooks
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Julia Brownley
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Ruben Gallego

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John Garamendi

John Garamendi
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Christopher Gibson

Christopher Gibson
Member of Congress

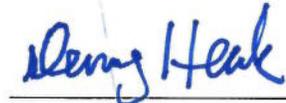
Louie Gohmert

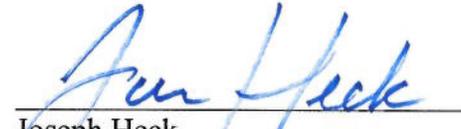
Louie Gohmert
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Bob Goodlatte

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

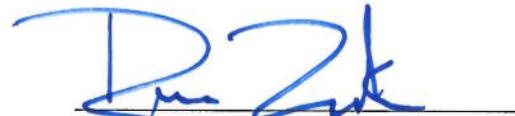

Cresent Hardy
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Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Joseph Heck
Member of Congress

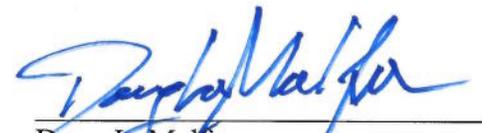

Will Hurd
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Ryan Zinke
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Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

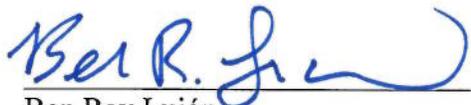

Stephen Knight
Member of Congress

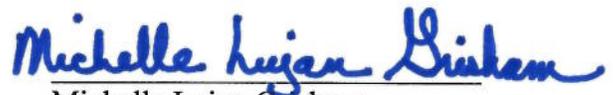

Doug LaMalfa
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Doug Lamborn
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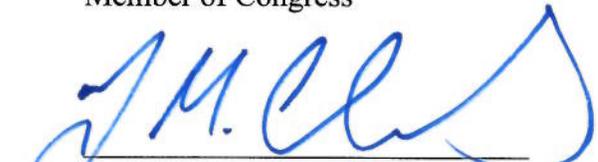

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Mia Love
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

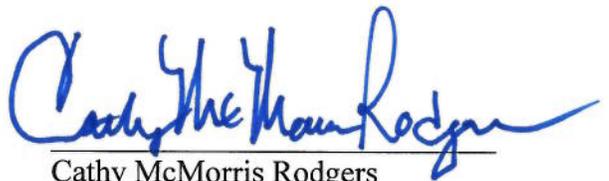

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Cynthia Lumms
Member of Congress

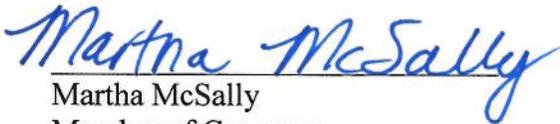

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



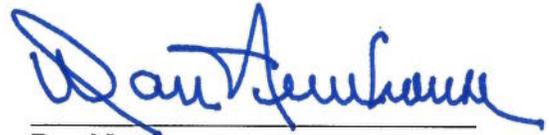
David B. McKinley, P.E.
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Martha McSally
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Dan Newhouse
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Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



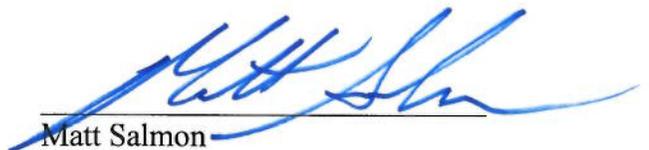
David Reichert
Member of Congress



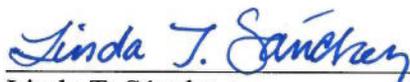
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



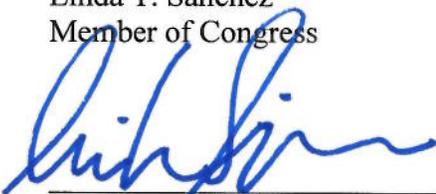
Matt Salmon
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



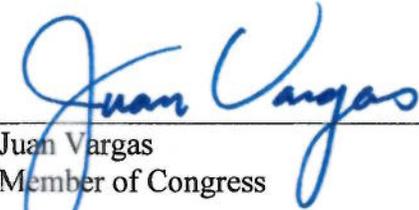
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



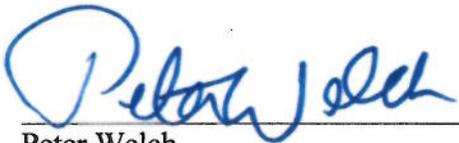
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



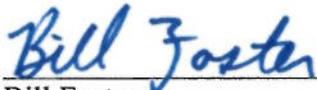
Bruce Westerman
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Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Don Young
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Bill Foster
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Mike Honda
Member of Congress