

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid,

As Members of Congress representing counties containing federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that Congress include full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for FY16 along with responsible budget offsets in any legislation likely to pass the House and Senate and be signed into law before the end of the year.

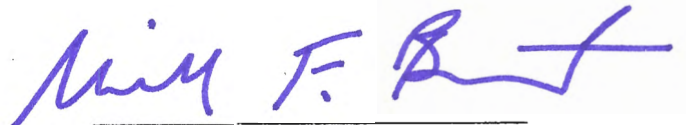
PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. Without full funding for the PILT program before the end of the year, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health to residents and millions of federal lands visitors alike.

Moving forward we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible long-term sustainable solution to fully fund this important program and eliminate the ongoing funding uncertainty PILT counties face. However, as the end of the year approaches, enacting full-funding for PILT in FY 2016 is essential in order to provide counties with the certainty they need to plan their own budgets and continue providing essential county services. We look forward to working with you to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities in FY16 and in the coming years.

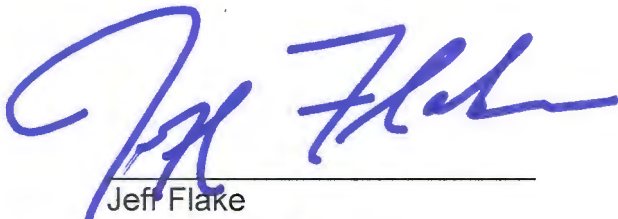
Sincerely,

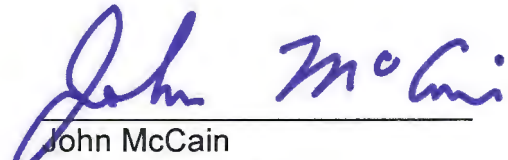


Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



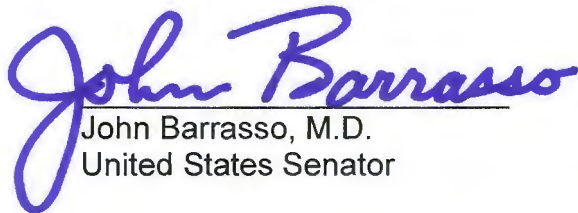
Michael Bennet  
United States Senator

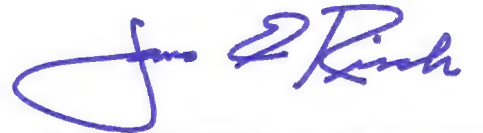
  
Jeff Flake  
United States Senator

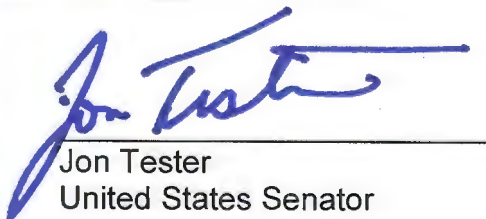
  
John McCain  
United States Senator


  
Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator

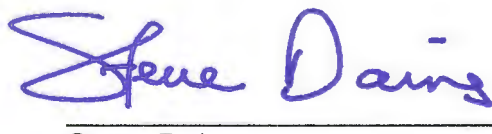
  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

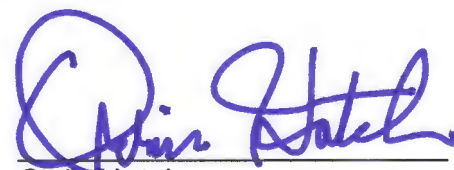
  
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator

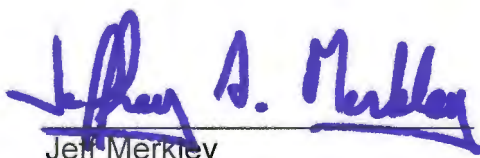
  
Jim Risch  
United States Senator

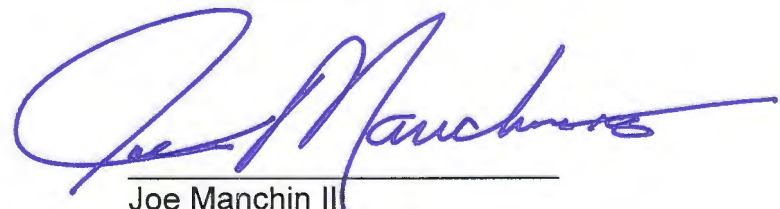
  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

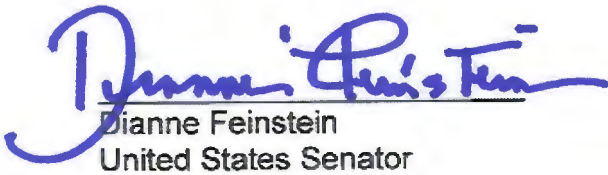
  
Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

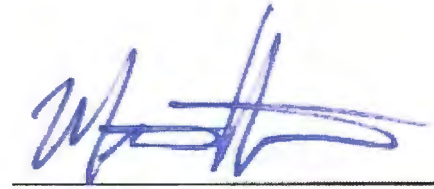
  
Steve Daines  
United States Senator

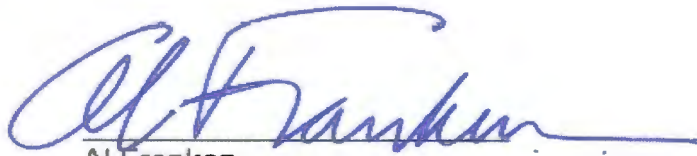
  
Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator

  
Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator

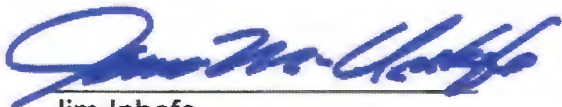
  
Joe Manchin II  
United States Senator

  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

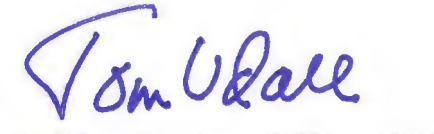
  
Al Franken  
United States Senator

  
Joseph Donnelly  
United States Senator


  
Jim Inhofe  
United States Senator


  
Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

  
John Hoeven  
United States Senator

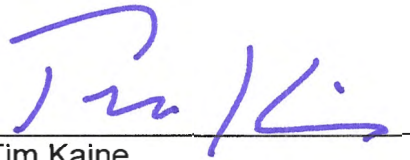
  
Tom Udall  
United States Senator

  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

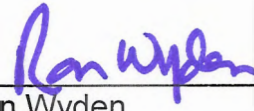
  
Mark Warner  
United States Senator

  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

  
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Mike Lee  
United States Senator



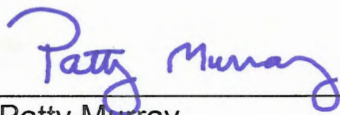
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



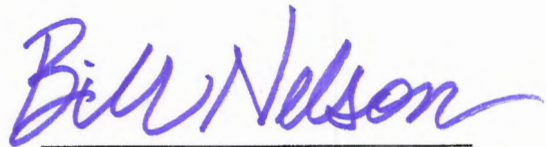
Dean Heller  
United States Senator



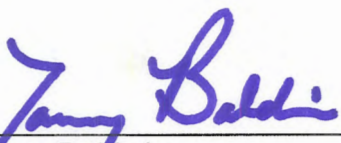
Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator



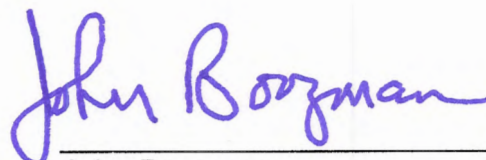
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator