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

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

John McCain
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

Jim Risch
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Orrin Hatch
United States Senator

Joe Manchin II
United States Senator
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

Mike Lee  
United States Senator

Dean Heller  
United States Senator

Patty Murray  
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator

Bill Nelson  
United States Senator

John Boozman  
United States Senator