

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Mikulski,

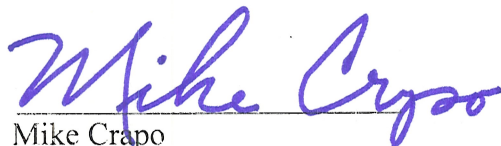
As Members of Congress representing counties with federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that you work together to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded. The Department of the Interior has estimated that \$480 million dollars will be necessary 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. It supports the many critical services that counties provide on federal public lands. Without full funding for the PILT program in FY 2017, 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 their residents and millions of federal lands visitors.

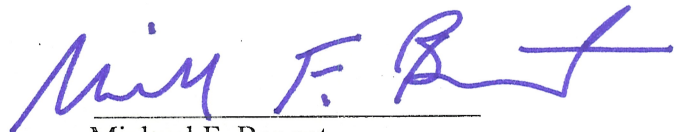
Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to fully fund PILT and eliminate the ongoing funding uncertainty counties face. As counties across the country work to balance their own budgets, enacting full-funding for PILT is essential to provide certainty that the federal government will continue to uphold its long-standing commitment to public lands counties.

We look forward to working with you, leadership, and other relevant Committees to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2017 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,



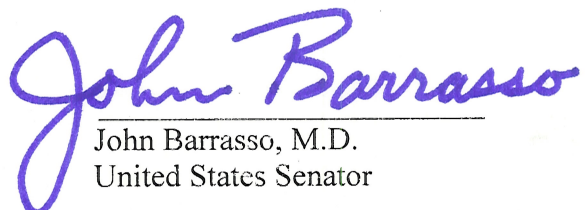
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



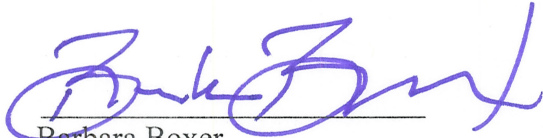
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



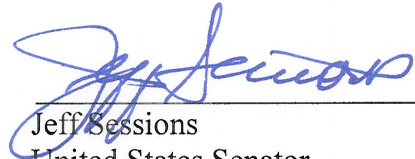
Harry Reid
United States Senator



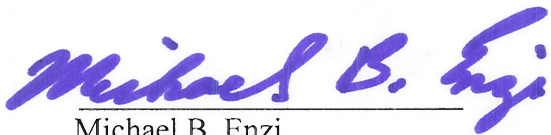
John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



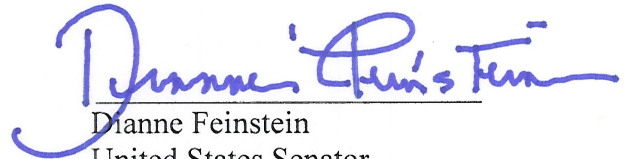
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



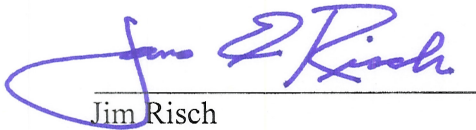
Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



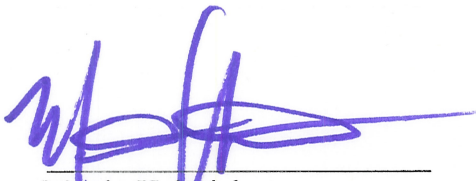
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



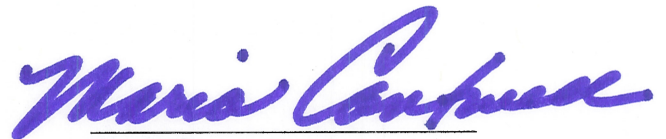
Jim Risch
United States Senator



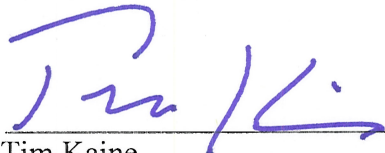
Al Franken
United States Senator



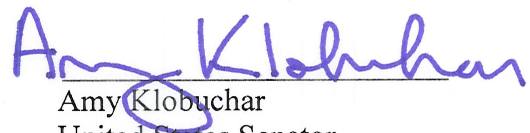
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



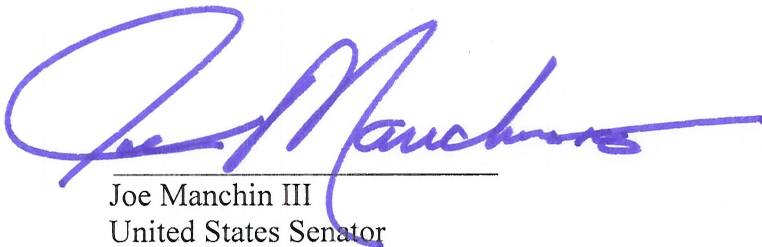
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



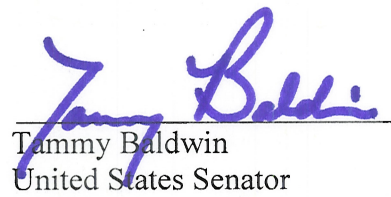
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



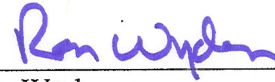
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



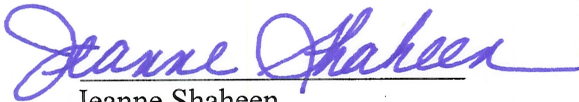
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



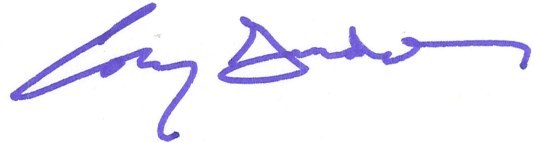
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



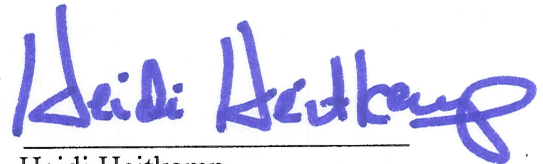
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



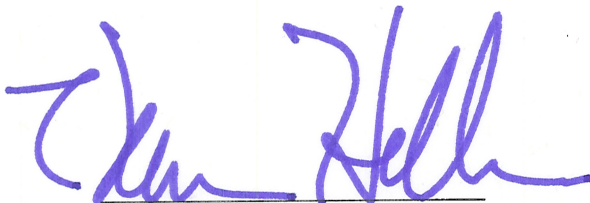
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



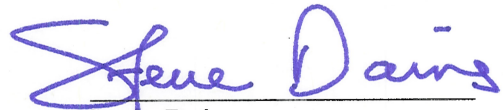
Dean Heller
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



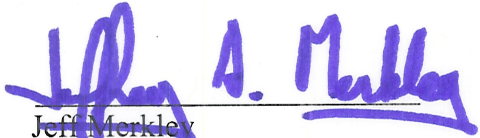
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator