Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the 114th Congress begins its work to enact the fiscal priorities of the United States, we urge you to work in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral fashion to secure full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and beyond. Without the certainty of full funding for the PILT program, counties throughout our districts and across the nation will be unable to provide our constituents with essential services such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health.

While it must be Congress’ ultimate goal to enact a long-term, sustainable solution to eliminate the ongoing uncertainty counties face, full-funding in FY16 for the PILT program is essential to provide our counties with the certainty they need to plan their own 2016 budgets.

PILT provides payments to local governments in 49 states and nearly 1,900 counties to offset foregone revenue due to tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. Current discretionary appropriations for PILT are set to expire on September 30, 2015. Without congressional action, we risk severely crippling counties’ ability to operate and provide essential services to our constituents.

Full funding of the PILT program will enable the federal government to meet its long-standing obligations to counties with federal land within their jurisdictions. It is imperative that we fulfill this obligation. We thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to work with you going forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress

Emmanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress
Owen Graham  
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Crescent Hardy  
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress

Joe Heck  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Raúl Labrador  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress
Norma Torres  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

Roger Williams  
TX 25

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress

Doug Collins  
Member of Congress

Evan Jenkins  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress