

# Urge House Leadership to Reauthorize PILT

Dear Colleague,

We encourage you to join us in sending the following letter to Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi urging them 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.

Nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states face the expiration of critical financial offsets for tax-exempt federal lands under their jurisdiction. By September 30, 2015 funding for this program will have expired – leaving historically underserved areas nationwide further economically crippled.

Still recovering from the recent economic downturn, these counties depend on PILT payments owed to them by the federal government to keep their communities afloat. PILT dollars allow local governments to provide critical health, education, cultural and emergency services to their residents. Failing to act to fulfill this long-standing obligation will leave counties across 49 states vulnerable and without the resources they need to serve and protect their citizens.

We urge you to support full funding of the PILT program for FY16 and beyond by joining us in a letter to Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi. [The deadline to sign on to this letter is Friday, March 13th.](#) Please feel free to reach out to Jennifer George-Nichol ([Jennifer.George-Nichol@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jennifer.George-Nichol@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Polis's office, Tim Robinson ([Tim.Robinson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tim.Robinson@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Stewart's office, Ken Montoya ([Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Kirkpatrick's office, or Bobby Hamill ([Robert.Hamill@mail.house.gov](mailto:Robert.Hamill@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Duffy's office with any further questions or to sign on.

Sincerely,

JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress

CHRIS STEWART  
Member of Congress

ANN KIRKPATRICK  
Member of Congress

SEAN DUFFY  
Member of Congress

## **Congressional Letter In Support Of The Payments In Lieu Of Taxes Program**

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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,

JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress

CHRIS STEWART  
Member of Congress

ANN KIRKPATRICK  
Member of Congress

SEAN DUFFY  
Member of Congress