

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 23, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write today regarding the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program, which for more than 40 years has played a critical role in supporting our local communities. The PILT program provides necessary resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states by offsetting lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. As 2015 comes to an end, we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to secure full funding for the PILT program for fiscal year (FY) 2016.

For FY16, the Department of the Interior has estimated \$452 million will be necessary to fully fund PILT payments and ensure the federal government upholds its longstanding obligation to counties with public lands. If we fail to fully fund the PILT program by the end of the year, these counties will be unable to provide essential services – such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health.

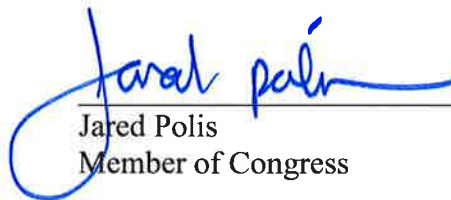
Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to end the ongoing uncertainty our communities face and enact a long-term, sustainable solution to fully fund PILT. However, as the end of the year approaches, our focus needs to be on averting the disaster immediately in front of us and ensuring full funding for PILT through FY16. We have a responsibility to provide counties across the nation with the certainty they need to plan their budgets and maintain essential services.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to see its expeditious resolution.

Sincerely,



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



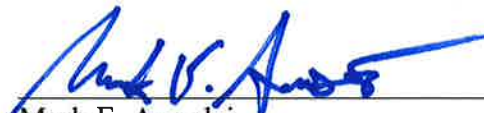
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



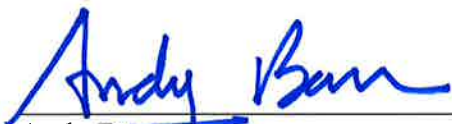
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress




Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



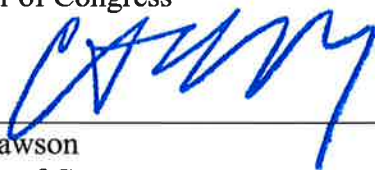
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



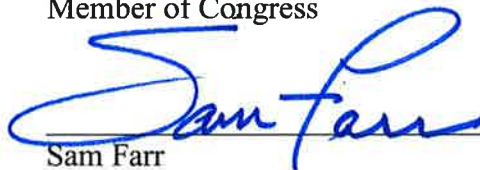
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



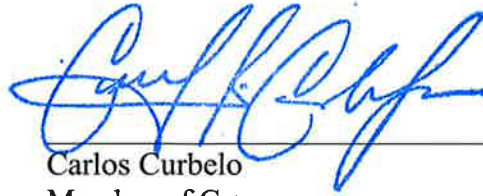
Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



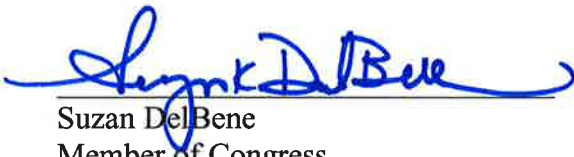
Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress





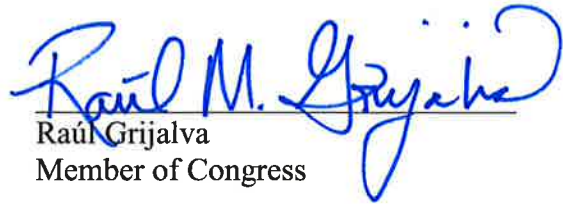
Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress




Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Crescent Hardy  
Member of Congress



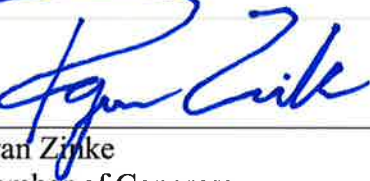
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



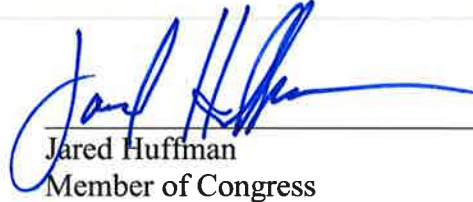
Joe Heck  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



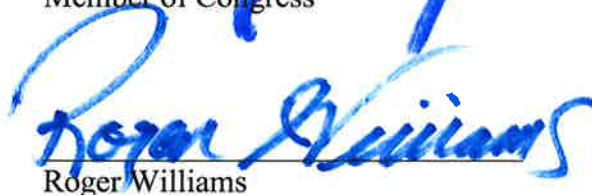
Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



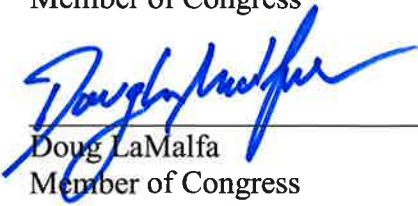
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



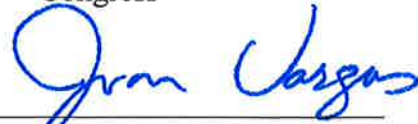
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



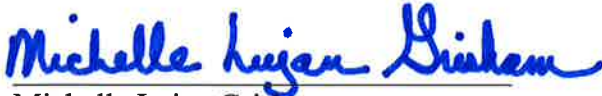
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



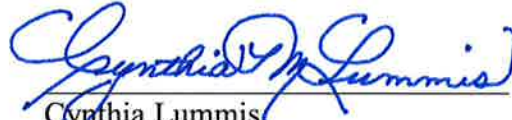
Mia Love  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



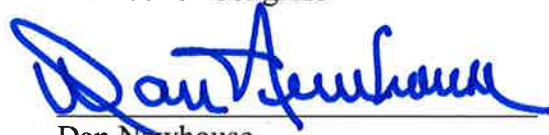
Norma Torres  
Member of Congress



Martha McSally  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress



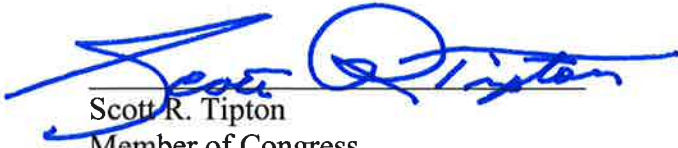
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Michael Simpson  
Member of Congress



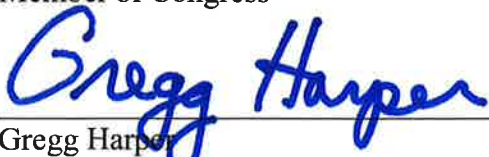
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



John Duncan Jr.  
Member of Congress





David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress