

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 22, 2017

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy,

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.

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 fiscal year (FY) 2018, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as law enforcement, education, 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 to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2018 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator




Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

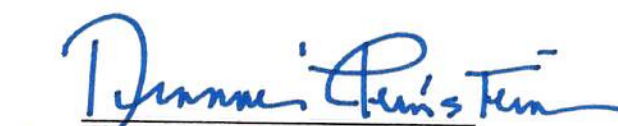

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator


Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

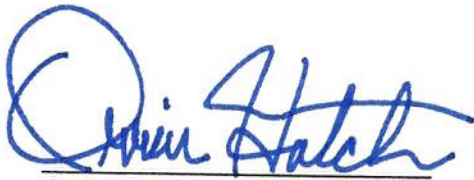

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator


Cory Gardner
United States Senator


Kamala Harris
United States Senator


Maggie Hassan
United States Senator



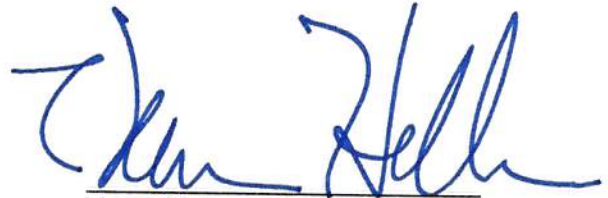
Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



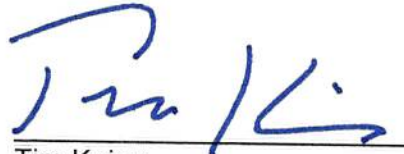
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



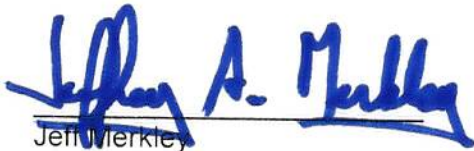
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



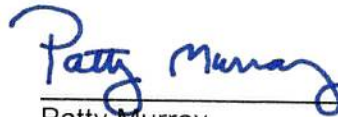
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



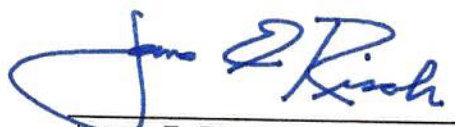
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



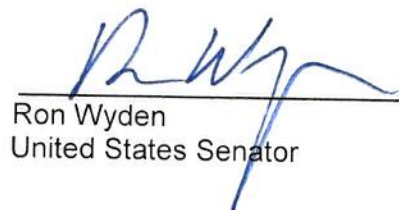
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator