With Over $1,000,000 at Risk for Mariposa County, California’s Rural Counties Join NACo in Urging Immediate Congressional Action on Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funding

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November 17, 2014 - SACRAMENTO, CA. – The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) join the National Association of Counties (NACo) in urging members of Congress to approve Fiscal Year 2015 funding for the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, better known as PILT. Federal PILT enables counties to provide vital services to residents, and visitors to America’s public lands. RCRC is calling on California Legislators to secure immediate funding for the PILT program before the year’s end.

“Federal PILT funding is critical to California’s rural counties, as counties deliver numerous services to support the public lands within our boundaries,” said Nate Beason, RCRC Chair and Nevada County Supervisor. “Congress must fund PILT before the end of the year to ensure that various services such as trash collection, road maintenance, search-and-rescue, and fire protection services are adequately funded. The PILT program helps to make those services possible, and allow us to enjoy our public lands safely.”

Without PILT funding, counties and local property owners would be burdened with funding vital public services related to federal public lands beyond the means of the local tax base.

Federal PILT provides more than $45 million to 56 California counties and other local governments annually to offset forgone tax revenues due to the presence of substantial acreage of federal land in their jurisdictions. Despite not being able to collect property taxes on federal lands, county governments still provide important services for their residents and visitors to public lands, including solid waste disposal, law enforcement, road and bridge upkeep, and emergency medical services.

In September, NACo held a briefing with a bipartisan group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill and launched an online action center with national and county-specific information about the Federal PILT program. The online hub features detailed profiles for the 1,126 individual counties that receive more than $10,000 of Federal PILT funding, key facts and data points and tips for spreading the word via social media.

For more information, visit http://www.naco.org/PILT.

Mariposa County, CA

2014 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

PILT RECEIVED, FY 2014: $1,161,092
PERCENT OF FEDERAL LAND: 55.0%
PROPERTY TAX GENERATED PER TAXABLE ACRE: $17.88
PILT AMOUNT PER FEDERAL ACRE: $2.25

FEDERAL LANDS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- 61.9% of counties have federal land within their boundaries. Even though they are not able to collect property taxes on federal land, county governments must still provide essential services for their residents and those who visit these public lands each year. Such services include road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

- Our ask: Counties urge Congress to provide full funding for PILT in FY 2015 and to support a sustainable long-term approach to financing essential local services in America's public lands counties.

NOTES: NACo Analysis of Department of the Interior data and Census Bureau Census of Governments data. Taxable acres exclude federal land, but not tribal land.

PILT FUNDING CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Road and Bridge Maintenance
- Law Enforcement
- Search and Rescue
- Emergency Medical
- Fire Protection
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Environmental Compliance