

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.

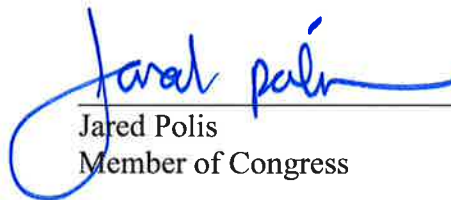
Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to end the ongoing uncertainty our communities face and enact a long-term, sustainable solution to fully fund PILT. However, as the end of the year approaches, our focus needs to be on averting the disaster immediately in front of us and ensuring full 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.

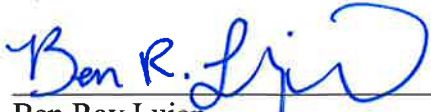
Sincerely,



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



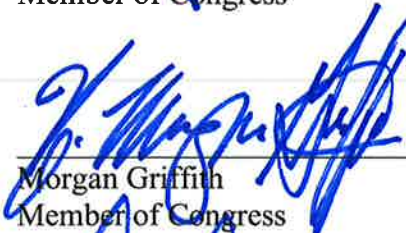
Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



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



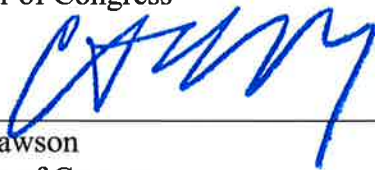
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



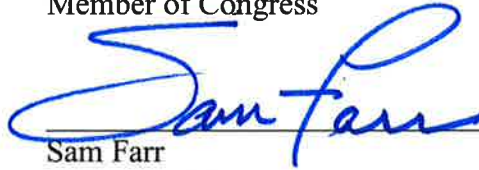
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



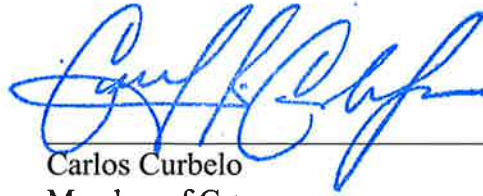
Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



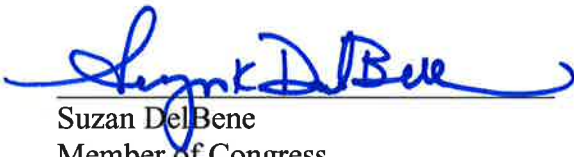
Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



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
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Kurt Schrader
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Trent Franks
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Ruben Gallego
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John Garamendi
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Rob Bishop
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Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



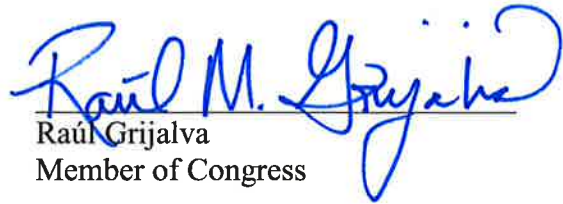
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



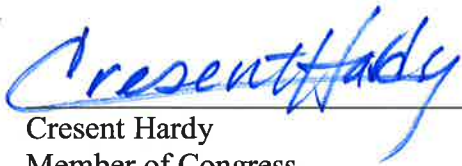
Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Crescent Hardy
Member of Congress



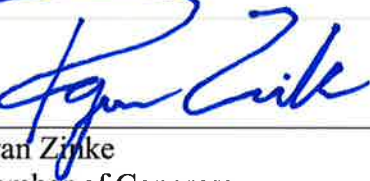
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



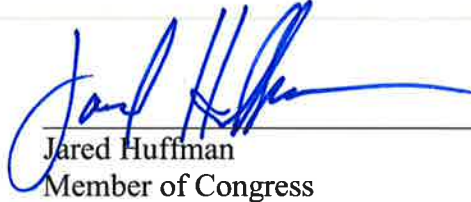
Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



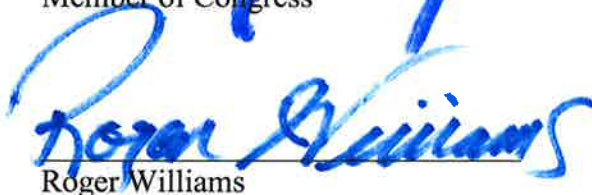
Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



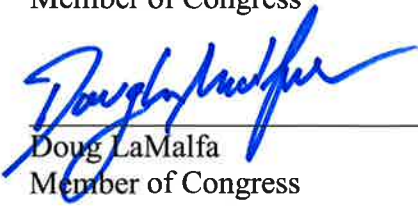
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



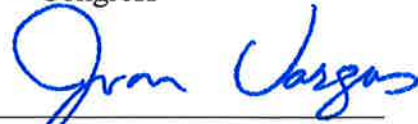
Bruce Westerman
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Peter Welch
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Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



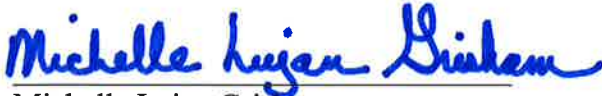
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



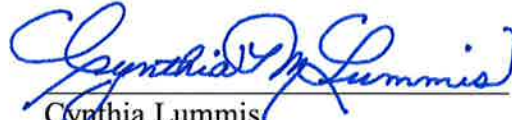
Mia Love
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



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



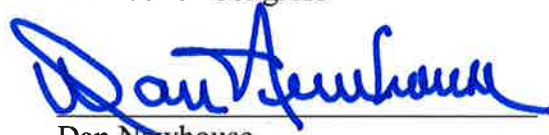
Norma Torres
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



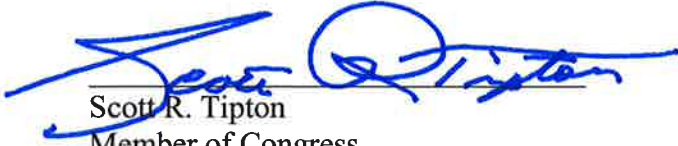
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Stevan Pearce
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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
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Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Michael Simpson
Member of Congress



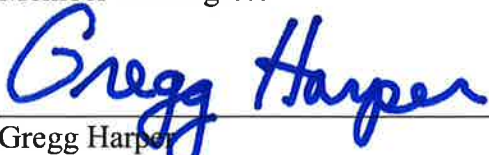
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress




Doug Lamborn
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



John Duncan Jr.
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress