



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Supervisor Cann becomes president of Western counties group**

**SPOKANE** – Mariposa County, Calif. Supervisor Kevin Cann was sworn in on May 17 as president of the Western Interstate Region (WIR), a regional affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo). During his swearing-in at NACo's WIR [conference](#) in Spokane County, Wash., Cann spoke of the role of county government as a place to make meaningful contributions.

“I’ve seen a new localism evolving across the country, and I’ve seen it in my state. An increasing number of state assembly and state senate members are fleeing from the extreme partisanship of state capitals to be elected as county officials, becoming the most effective conduit for the public good,” said Cann.

With critical legislative and regulatory issues being debated in the nation’s capital, county leaders at the conference discussed issues particularly important to western communities. These issues included:

- Federal funding through the [Payments in Lieu of Taxes \(PILT\)](#) and [Secure Rural Schools \(SRS\)](#) programs
- Forest health, active forest management and wildfire suppression
- Access to affordable [broadband](#)
- The nation’s [opioid epidemic and other substance abuse](#), and
- [Infrastructure](#).

“I look forward to strengthening alliances with our state and federal partners to maximize our ability to improve policies that are essential to Western counties and residents,” said Cann.

WIR’s membership consists of counties in 15 Western states: Alaska, Hawaii, Wash., Ore., Calif., Idaho, Nev., Ariz., Mont., Wyo., Colo., N.M., Utah, N.D. and S.D. For more information about WIR, visit: [www.naco.org/WIR](http://www.naco.org/WIR).

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*The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America’s counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public’s understanding of county government. [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)*

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