

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 23, 2020

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

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

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As Members of Congress representing counties with federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that you work to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

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, 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 visitors to our public lands.

Moving forward, we look forward to working with you to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to fully fund PILT and eliminate the uncertainty that counties face each year. As counties across the country work to balance their own budgets, full-funding and a long-term solution 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 and other Congressional leaders to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2021 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Mitt Romney
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Martha McSally
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator