

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Vice Chairman Shelby:

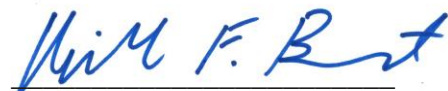
As Members of Congress representing counties with federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that you work to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

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.

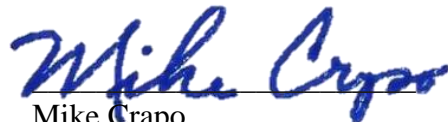
Moving forward, we look forward to working with you to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to fully fund PILT and eliminate the uncertainty that counties face each year. As cash strapped counties across the country work to address budget cuts exacerbated by the pandemic, full-funding and 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 2022 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,



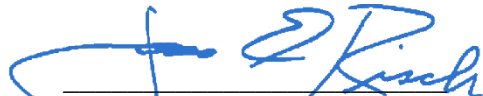
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



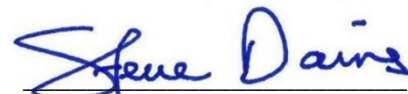
Tina Smith
United States Senator



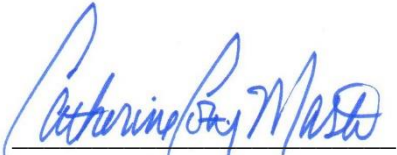
Mitt Romney
United States Senator



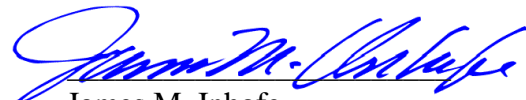
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



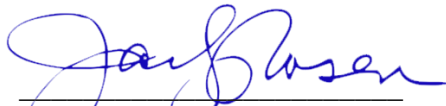
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



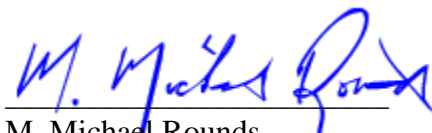
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



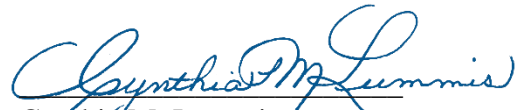
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



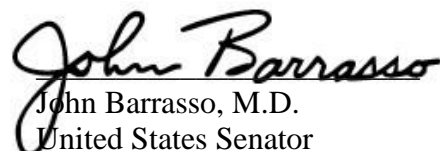
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



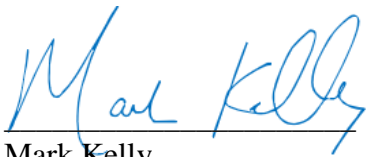
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



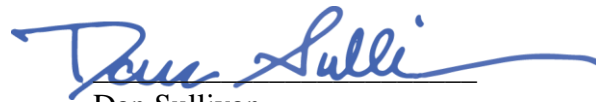
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



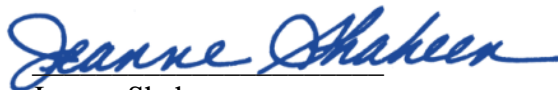
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



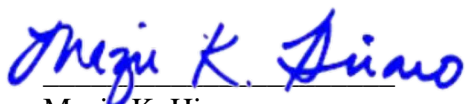
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



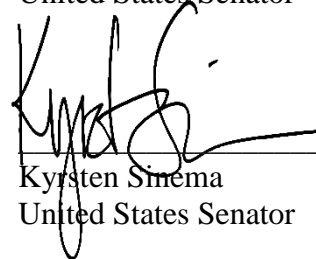
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator