

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2019

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) 2020.

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 to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2020 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,

 

An Wydr John Barrasso

Thom Tillis Martha McSally

Mazie Hirono Tim Smith

Jamy Boddie Larry Peters

Debbie Stabenow Mark R. Warner

Tammy Duckworth Tom Udall

Anthony Boy Mento

Maria Cantucci

Deanne Shaker

Jon Tosti

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Jeffrey A. Markley

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Maggie Horan

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Kevin Lames

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Jonathan White

James R. Kirsch

Steve Davis

Bert Sanders

Amy Klobuchar

Mazie Hirono

Janet Rosen

Michael B. Enzi