

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United State Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid,

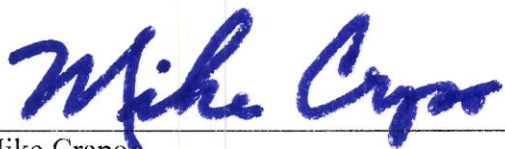
We urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and is offset in a responsible manner. For more than 40 years, the PILT program has played a critical role in supporting our local communities by providing 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.

For FY 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior has estimated that \$480 million dollars will be necessary to fully fund PILT. If Congress fails to fully fund the PILT program by the end of the year, public lands counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential public services such as law enforcement, search and rescue, public health and critical transportation infrastructure. Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2017, we risk severely crippling counties' ability to provide essential services for their residents and public lands visitors alike.

Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term and sustainable solution to fully fund PILT in FY 2017 and beyond. As counties across the United States work to balance their budgets, it is essential that Congress act to reaffirm the federal government's long-standing commitment to public lands counties by fully funding PILT.

We look forward to working with you to end the financial uncertainty facing thousands of counties nationwide, and we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



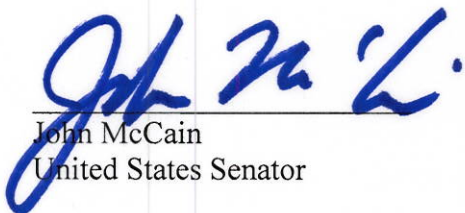
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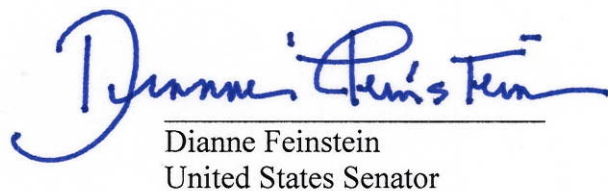
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

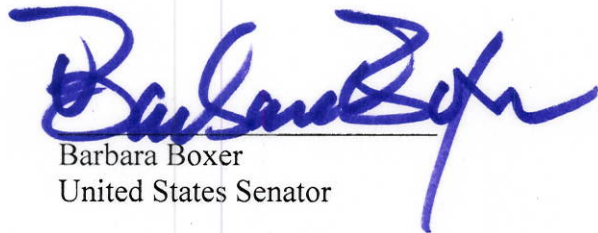


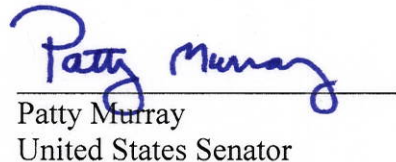
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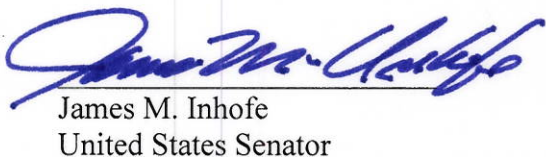
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

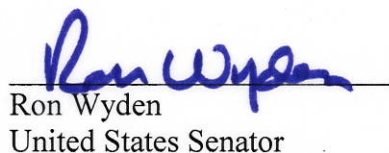
  
John McCain  
United States Senator

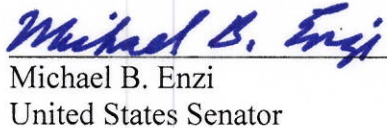
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

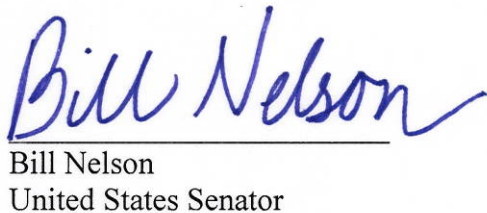
  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

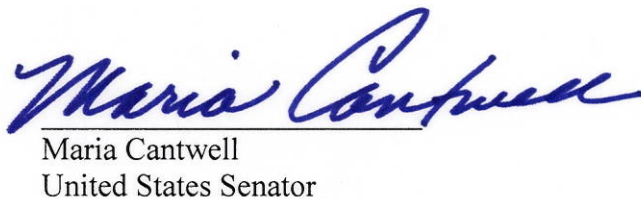
  
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator

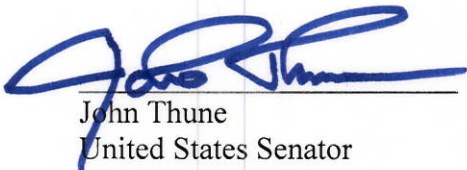
  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

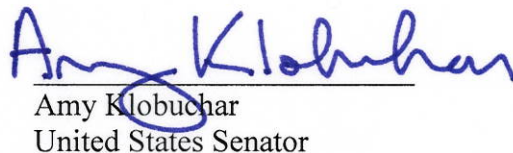
  
Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator

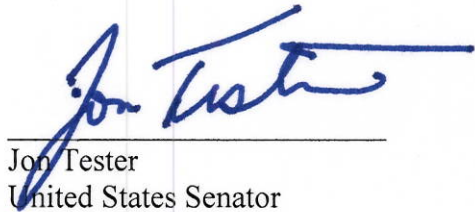
  
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator

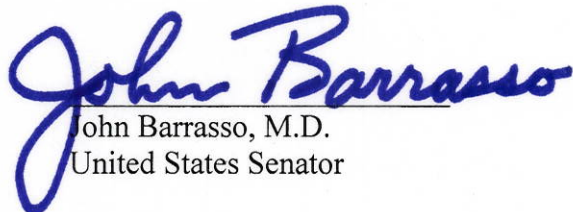
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

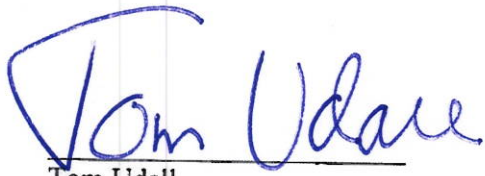
  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

  
John Thune  
United States Senator

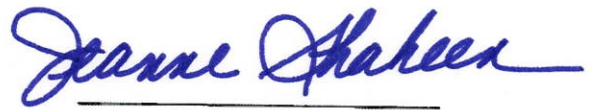
  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

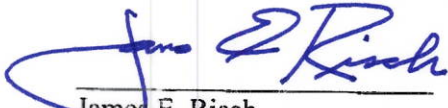
  
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



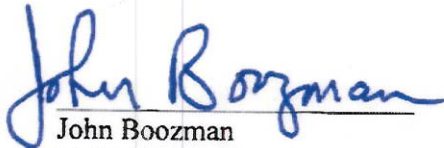
Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



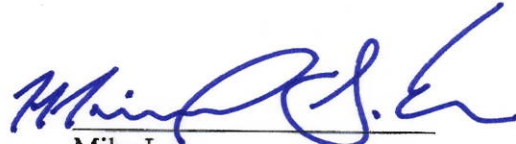
Al Franken  
United States Senator



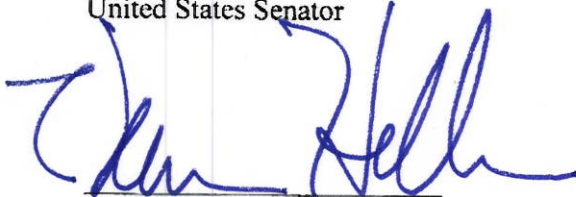
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



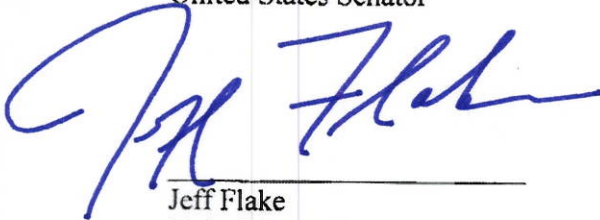
Mike Lee  
United States Senator



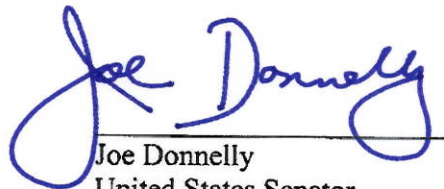
Dean Heller  
United States Senator



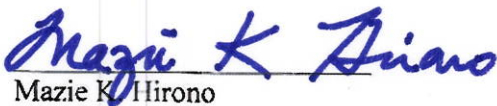
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Jeff Flake  
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

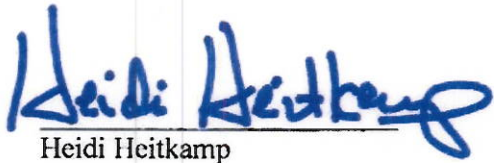


Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator

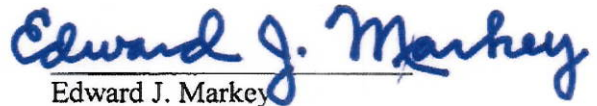


Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator





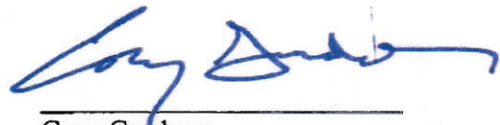
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



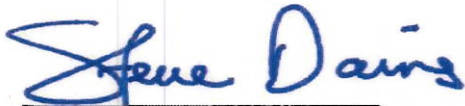
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



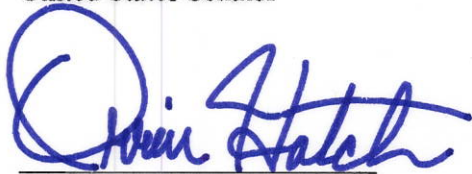
Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator