

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member  
Budget Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

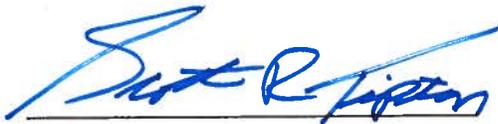
Dear Chairman Ryan, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Van Hollen and Ranking Member Sessions:

As you continue to conference on a budget for Fiscal Year 2014, we write to urge you to prioritize funding for the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program. PILT was first signed into law in October, 1976 and was created to bridge budget shortfalls that many counties face as the result of having large expanses of un-taxable federal lands. As you know, local property and sales taxes typically fund county governments allowing them to provide essential services such as law enforcement, infrastructure and education needs for communities. The inability for counties to collect these local taxes on the extensive acreage of federal lands in their jurisdictions poses a significant burden, especially when counties often provide critical services on these very lands. A fully-funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the government's obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land. Almost 2,000 counties in 49 states depend on some form of PILT disbursement.

The PILT program has been historically underfunded in the past which has been detrimental for Western counties and rural communities. In 2008, legislation was signed into law to correct this and prevent PILT from being subject to annual appropriations, thus providing mandatory funding. Unfortunately, the mandatory requirement to fund the PILT program recently sunset and counties received their last disbursement in June 2013.

We all recognize the current fiscal challenges our nation faces, but prudent, economical uses of our resources can have significant benefits for our economy and local communities. Counties have already begun budgeting for Fiscal Year 2014 and without action from Congress, many will be forced to cut important services and implement budget contingency plans. As you all move toward an agreement on a budget resolution, we urge you to end this uncertainty and prevent further disruption to critical local government operations by providing full-funding for the PILT program. We pledge to work with you to identify the necessary offsets to ensure this program is fully paid for and does not increase direct spending, should mandatory spending for this program not be extended. Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments.

Sincerely,



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



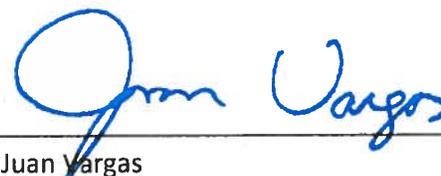
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



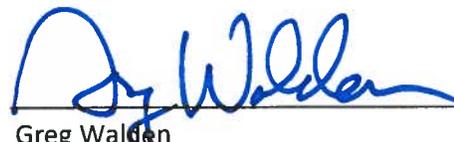
Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



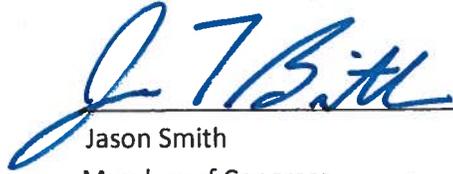
Gloria Negrette McLeod  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



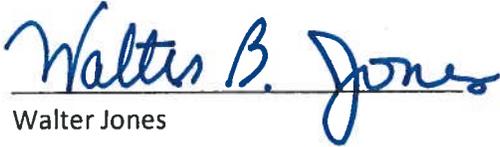
Jason Smith  
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



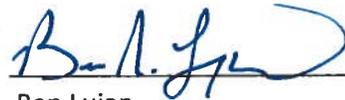
Walter Jones  
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Steve Pearce  
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Trent Franks  
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Ben Lujan  
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Rick Nolan  
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Jason Chaffetz  
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John Garamendi  
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Grace Napolitano  
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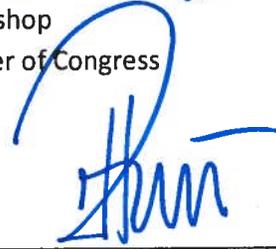
Cynthia Lummis  
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Rob Bishop  
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Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress



Joe Heck  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



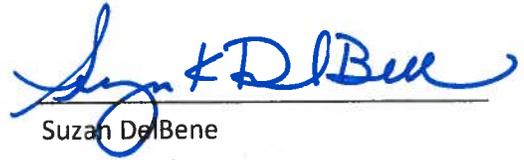
Steve Daines  
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



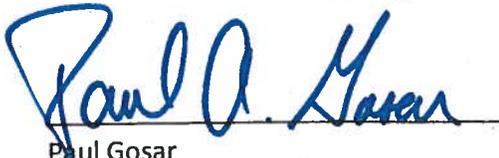
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
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Ron Barber  
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Morgan Griffith  
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Stephen Fincher  
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Jaime Herrera Beutler  
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Jared Huffman  
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