Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees works to develop a final Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 spending measure, we respectfully request that your committee fully support the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The PILT program provides critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three U.S. territories. As you know, the recently adopted budget resolution included a deficit neutral reserve fund placeholder for PILT. With this bipartisan acknowledgment to fund the program, we respectfully request that the program be fully funded and appropriately offset in the upcoming appropriations bill.

PILT is currently authorized at $425 million for fiscal year 2014 to help offset losses to local governments from the presence of non-taxable federal lands through direct payments to counties and other local governments. Counties with federal land in their jurisdictions often provide vital services on those lands, such as solid waste management, search and rescue and emergency medical services. A fully funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the federal governments’ obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land.

In July 2012, President Obama signed into law PL 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Included in the legislation was mandatory funding for PILT. After implementation of the Budget Control Act (sequestration cuts), counties received roughly $400 million in FY 2013. Unless Congress acts, Counties will have received their last fully funded PILT disbursement in June of 2013.

We urge you to consider the economic hardship that counties across the nation will face if the PILT program is not given consistent funding. We understand the Appropriations Committee has some difficult funding decisions coming up and we appreciate your consideration of this important issue. Moving forward, I hope that we can work together to seek a long-term funding solution to provide a consistent and stable source of funding for the nation’s PILT counties.

Respectfully,
National Association of Counties
Arizona Association of Counties
California State Association of Counties
Idaho Association of Counties
Nevada Association of Counties
South Dakota Association County Commissioners
Virginia Association of Counties
County Commissioners Association of West Virginia
Wyoming County Commissioners

Association of County Commissions of Alabama
Arizona County Supervisors Association
Colorado Counties, Inc.
Association of Minnesota Counties
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Texas Association of Counties
Washington State Association of Counties
National Association of Black County Officials

Cleburne County, Ala.
Lamar County, Ala.
Mobile County, Ala.
Pickens County, Ala.
Aleutians East Borough, Alaska
City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska
Denali Borough, Alaska
Juneau, Alaska
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Petersburg Borough, Alaska
Apache County, Ariz.
Cochise County, Ariz.
Coconino County, Ariz.
Gila County, Ariz.
Graham County, Ariz.
La Paz County, Ariz.
Mohave County, Ariz.
Navajo County, Ariz.
Pinal County, Ariz.
Santa Cruz County, Ariz.
Yavapai County, Ariz.
Yuma County, Ariz.
Baxter County, Ark.
Clark County, Ark.
Cleburne County, Ark.
Jefferson County, Ark.
Johnson County, Ark.
Marion County, Ark.
Monroe County, Ark.
Montgomery County, Ark.
Phillips County, Ark.
Polk County, Ark.
Pope County, Ark.
Sebastian County, Ark.
Jefferson County, Colo.
Kiowa County, Colo.

Alpine County, Calif.
Amador County, Calif.
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Plumas County, Calif.
Sacramento County, Calif.
San Diego County, Calif.
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Roseau County, Minn.
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Madison County, Miss.
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Pershing County, Nev.
White Pine County, Nev.
Cheshire County, N.H.
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Catron County, N.M.
Chaves County, N.M.
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McKinley County, N.M.
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Billings County, N.D.
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Portage County, Ohio
Jefferson County, Okla.
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