NEW RELEASE

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Counties to appropriators: Fully support PILT program for counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today delivered a letter to House and Senate appropriators signed by more than 750 county officials and 15 state associations of counties urging them to fully support the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for FY14.

The federal budget resolution adopted late last year includes 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,” counties said in the letter. “We urge you to consider the economic hardship that counties across the nation will face if the PILT program is not given consistent funding."

Since 1976, the PILT program has provided critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three U.S. territories. The PILT program funds offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of substantial acreage of federal land in their jurisdictions. In many counties, more than 50 percent of their land is owned by the federal government.

Specifically, PILT payments allow local governments to provide critical government services for residents such as education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, firefighting and parks and recreation.

Unless Congress acts, counties will have received their last fully funded PILT disbursement in June of 2013. More information about the PILT program is available at www.naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,069 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.
January 7, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees work 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.
Calaveras County, Calif.
County of Inyo, Calif.
Humboldt County, Calif.
Los Angeles County, Calif.
Mariposa County, Calif.
Mendocino County, Calif.
Merced County, Calif.
Mono County, Calif.
Nevada County, Calif.
Plumas County, Calif.
Sacramento County, Calif.
San Diego County, Calif.
Santa Barbara County, Calif.
Sierra County, Calif.
Siskiyou County, Calif.
Trinity County, Calif.
Tulare County, Calif.
Tuolumne County, Calif.
Alamosa County, Colo.
Boulder County, Colo.
Cass County, Colo.
Chaffee County, Colo.
Clear Creek County, Colo.
Conejos County, Colo.
Delta County, Colo.
Douglas County, Colo.
El Paso County, Colo.
Fremont County, Colo.
Gilpin County, Colo.
Hinsdale County, Colo.
Huerfano County, Colo.
Jackson County, Colo.
Allamakee County, Iowa
Clayton County, Iowa
La Plata County, Colo.  
Lake County, Colo.  
Las Animas County, Colo.  
Mesa County, Colo.  
Mineral County, Colo.  
Moffat County, Colo.  
Montezuma County, Colo.  
Otero County, Colo.  
Ouray County, Colo.  
Pitkin County, Colo.  
Rio Blanco County, Colo.  
Routt County, Colo.  
Saguache County, Colo.  
San Juan County, Colo.  
San Miguel County, Colo.  
Teller County, Colo.  
Weld County, Colo.  
Leon County, Fla.  
Liberty County, Fla.  
Santa Rosa County, Fla.  
Douglas County, Ga.  
Gordon County, Ga.  
Union County, Ga.  
Wilkes County, Ga.  
Kauai, Hawaii  
Bannock County, Idaho  
Blaine County, Idaho  
Bonneville County, Idaho  
Butte County, Idaho  
Cassia County, Idaho  
Clearwater County, Idaho  
Custer County, Idaho  
Elmore County, Idaho  
Fremont County, Idaho  
Gem County, Idaho  
Jerome County, Idaho  
Lincoln County, Idaho  
Owyhee County, Idaho  
Power County, Idaho  
Shoshone County, Idaho  
Valley County, Idaho  
Washington County, Idaho  
Union County, Ill.  
Brown County, Ind.  
Franklin County, Ind.  
Parke County, Ind.  
Aitkin County, Minn.  
Benton County, Minn.  
Big Stone County, Minn.  
Des Moines County, Iowa  
Linn County, Iowa  
Marion County, Iowa  
Rapides County, Iowa  
Story County, Iowa  
Wayne County, Iowa  
Norton County, Kan.  
Riley County, Kan.  
Letcher County, Ky.  
Pulaski County, Ky.  
Bossier Parish, La.  
Caddo Parish, La.  
St. Helena Parish, La.  
St. Martin Parish, La.  
Franklin County, Maine  
Piscataquis County, Maine  
Baltimore City, Md.  
Alger County, Mich.  
Baraga County, Mich.  
Benzie County, Mich.  
Chippewa County, Mich.  
County of Iron, Mich.  
Crawford County, Mich.  
Emmet County, Mich.  
Gogebic County, Mich.  
Hillsdale County, Mich.  
Huron County, Mich.  
Ingham County, Mich.  
Kalkaska County, Mich.  
Lake County, Mich.  
Lapeer County, Mich.  
Leelanau County, Mich.  
Mackinac County, Mich.  
Manistee County, Mich.  
Menominee County, Mich.  
Missaukee County, Mich.  
Montcalm County, Mich.  
Oceana County, Mich.  
Ontonagon County, Mich.  
Oscoda County, Mich.  
Otsego County, Mich.  
Presque Isle County, Mich.  
Sanginaw County Mich.  
Sanilac County, Mich.  
Schoolcraft County, Mich.  
Wexford County, Mich.  
Cascade County, Mont.  
Cluster County, Mont.  
Fergus County, Mont.
Blue Earth County, Minn. Madison County, Mont.
Carlton County, Minn. McConaughy County, Mont.
Carver County, Minn. Mineral County, Mont.
Cass County, Minn. Null County, Mont.
Clay County, Minn. Pondera County, Mont.
Cook County, Minn. Powell County, Mont.
Cottonwood County, Minn. Ravalli County, Mont.
Douglas County, Minn. Sanders County, Mont.
Fillmore County, Minn. Sweet Grass County, Mont.
Houston County, Minn. Valley County, Mont.
Hubbard County, Minn. Yellowstone County, Mont.
Itasca County, Minn. Douglas County, Neb.
Jackson County, Minn. Nuckolls County, Neb.
Lac Qui Parle County, Minn. Otoe County, Neb.
Lake County, Minn. Thomas County, Neb.
Mahnomen County, Minn. Douglas County, Nev.
Meeker County, Minn. Elko County, Nev.
Morrison County, Minn. Humboldt County, Nev.
Nobles County, Minn. Landre County, Nev.
Olmsted County, Minn. Mineral County, Nev.
Penninton County, Minn. Nye County, Nev.
Pine County, Minn. Pershing County, Nev.
Ramsey County, Minn. White Pine County, Nev.
Red Lake County, Minn. Cheshire County, N.H.
Roseau County, Minn. Bernalillo County, N.M.
St. Louis County, Minn. Catron County, N.M.
Stevens County, Minn. Chaves County, N.M.
Swift County, Minn. County of Eddy, N.M.
Traverse County, Minn. County of Lincoln, N.M.
Winona County, Minn. County of Luna, N.M.
Wright County, Minn. De Baca County, N.M.
Madison County, Miss. Grant County, N.M.
Benton County, Mo. Hidalgo County, N.M.
Bollinger County, Mo. Lincoln County, N.M.
Chariton County, Mo. Luna County, N.M.
Greene County, Mo. McKinley County, N.M.
Hickory County, Mo. Quay County, N.M.
Laclede County, Mo. Rio Arriba County, N.M.
Lafayette County, Mo. San Juan County, N.M.
Polk County, Mo. San Miguel County, N.M.
Ralls County, Mo. Sandoval County, N.M.
Taney County, Mo. Sierra County, N.M.
Beaverhead County, Mont. Socorro County, N.M.
Blaine County, Mont. Cattaraugus County, N.Y.
Carbon County, Mont. Scott County, Tenn.
Graham County, N.C. Tipton County, Tenn.
McDowell County, N.C. Williamson County, Tenn.
Nash County, N.C. Angelina County, Texas
Rowan County, N.C.
Swain County, N.C.  Brewster County, Texas
Transylvania County, N.C.  Camp County, Texas
Vance County, N.C.  Foard County, Texas
Billings County, N.D.  Hopkins County, Texas
Burleigh County, N.D.  McMullen County, Texas
Cavalier County, N.D.  Oldham County, Texas
Kidder County, N.D.  San Jacinto County, Texas
McIntosh County, N.D.  Tom Green County, Texas
Rolette County, N.D.  Cache County, Utah
Sargent County, N.D.  Carbon County, Utah
Gallia County, Ohio  Piute County, Utah
Portage County, Ohio  San Juan County, Utah
Jefferson County, Okla.  Tooele County, Utah
Muskogee County, Okla.  Uintah County, Utah
Woodward County, Okla.  Wayne County, Utah
Baker County, Ore.  Arlington County, Va.
Jackson County, Ore.  Augusta County, Va.
Josephine County, Ore.  Carroll County, Va.
Lake County, Ore.  County of Warren, Va.
Malheur County, Ore.  Grayson County, Va.
Marion County, Ore.  Greene County, Va.
Multnomah County, Ore.  Washington County, Va.
Tillamook County, Ore.  Wythe County, Va.
Union County, Ore.  Chelan County, Wash.
Wallowa County, Ore.  Franklin County, Wash.
Armstrong County, Pa.  Lewis County, Wash.
Berks County, Pa.  Okanogan County, Wash.
Cameron County, Pa.  Pend Oreille County, Wash.
Crawford County, Pa.  Skagit County, Wash.
Elk County, Pa.  Skamania County, Wash.
Forest County, Pa.  Whatcom County, Wash.
Lawrence County, Pa.  Yakima County, Wash.
McKean County, Pa.  Douglas County, Wis.
Snyder County, Pa.  Forest County, Wis.
Somerset County, Pa.  La Crosse County, Wis.
Tioga County, Pa.  Taylor County, Wis.
Edgefield County, S.C.  Cabell County, W.Va.
Laurens County, S.C.  Fayette County, W.Va.
Richland County, S.C.  Hampshire County, W.Va.
Brule County, S.D.  Hardy County, W.Va.
Fall River County, S.D.  Harrison County, W.Va.
Jackson County, S.D.  Jefferson County, W.Va.
Nicholas County, W.Va.
Ohio County, W.Va.
Pendleton County, W.Va.
Raleigh County Commission, W.Va.
Randolph, W.Va.
Roane County, W.Va.
Summers County, W.Va.
Tucker County, W.Va.
Albany County, Wyo.
Big Horn County, Wyo.
Carbon County, Wyo.
Converse County, Wyo.
Crook County, Wyo.
Fremont County, Wyo.
Goshen County, Wyo.
Hot Springs County, Wyo.
Johnson County, Wyo.
Laramie County, Wyo.
Lincoln County, Wyo.
Natrona County, Wyo.
Niobrara County, Wyo.
Park County, Wyo.
Platte County, Wyo.
Sheridan County, Wyo.
Sublette County, Wyo.
Sweetwater County, Wyo.
Teton County, Wyo.
Uinta County, Wyo.
Washakie County, Wyo.
Weston County, Wyo.