FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2011

CONTACT: Jim Philipps
202.942.4220
jphilipps@naco.org

News Release

County officials to urge Congress to support mandatory PILT program funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than two dozen county officials representing 16 states will descend on Capitol Hill Sept. 14-15 to urge members of Congress to pass mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for FY 2013 and beyond. The advocacy effort will feature a Congressional briefing by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to be held 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 14, in room CVC215 of the Capitol Visitors’ Center.

The program was conceived in 1976 to offset loss of tax revenues to county government encumbered by the presence of federal land within their jurisdictions. For many counties more than 50 percent of their land is owned by the federal government. PILT payments to counties allow local governments to provide critical government services such as education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, fire fighting, parks and recreation.

NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake said that while eligible counties are set to receive federal PILT payments through FY 2012, Congress needs to act promptly in order to maintain mandatory funding for fiscal years FY 2013 and beyond.

“Congress must keep its promise to counties and ensure that these federal payments are not disrupted,” Naake said. “The PILT program is a critical source of revenue for counties with large areas of tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries. Without the revenue, many counties would be forced to cut services, delay infrastructure maintenance and improvement and eliminate local jobs.”

Twenty-seven county officials from across the country will be participating in the NACo PILT “fly-in” advocacy effort. States represented include: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Washington.

In addition to visiting the offices of members of Congress, NACo will hold a Congressional Briefing on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. in Room CVC215 of the Capitol Visitors’ Center. Scheduled to discuss the importance of the PILT program are Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Rep. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.), and Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah). Sen. Bingaman is chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Rep.
Pearce is chair of the Congressional Western Caucus, and Rep. Bishop is chair of the House subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

Click [here](http://www.naco.org) to read NACo Fact Sheet on the PILT program. For further information about the PILT program, contact Ryan Yates at 202.942.4207 or ryates@naco.org.

Member of the news media are welcome to attend the briefing. Contact NACo Media Relations Manager Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org for information.

###

*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 3,068 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](http://www.naco.org).*