NEWS RELEASE

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Time is running out for Congress to fund PILT program for counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Governors’ Association are strongly urging Congressional appropriators and leadership to keep its promise to the nation’s counties and fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for FY14.

The recently adopted federal budget resolution included a deficit neutral reserve fund placeholder for PILT. With this bipartisan acknowledgment to fund the program, county leaders from across the country requested in a letter today that the program be fully funded and appropriately offset in the upcoming appropriations bill.

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.

Counts are asking Congress to consider the economic hardship that counties across the nation will face if the PILT program is not given consistent funding. Fully funding the PILT program fulfills the federal governments’ obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land.

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.