NACo to Senate: Continue mandatory funding for PILT program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today urged the U.S. Senate to extend mandatory funding provisions for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal years 2014 and beyond. PILT payments support essential county services including law enforcement, emergency response, transportation infrastructure and access to healthcare.

In testimony today before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, Ryan Yates, Associate Legislative Director for NACo, reaffirmed the critical need for Congress to secure the government’s financial commitment to rural, public land counties. He urged the committee, chaired by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), to provide mandatory funding for the PILT program and consider NACo’s suggestions to strengthen it.

Additionally, Yates urged the Committee to avoid pursuing efforts to consolidate PILT with other natural resource based revenue sharing programs. “Consolidation of these programs would be disastrous to the financial stability of federal land counties and would ultimately politicize an otherwise apolitical and straightforward federal program,” he said.

NACo was one of several experts invited to testify at the oversight hearing entitled, “Keeping the Commitment to Rural Communities: Options for Reauthorizing and Reforming the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and Payments in Lieu of Taxes.”

Click here to read NACo’s full testimony.

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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.