

PUBLIC LANDS

Resolution on Requiring Private Entities that Sell or Donate Property to the Federal Government to Pay a Fee in Lieu of Taxes (FILT)

Issue: Private lands either sold or donated to the federal government for conservation purposes resulting in such property becoming exempt from local property taxation, thereby reducing the overall taxable market value in affected counties.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact federal legislation to require private entities that sell or donate private land to the federal government for conservation purposes to pay an annual fee in lieu of property taxes (FILT) to affected counties. NACo recommends that the FILT be based upon the actual property taxes paid on the land at the time that it was removed from the tax rolls.

Approved | March 5, 2018

Resolution Opposing Federal Regulations and Policies Requiring Landscape-Scale Mitigation, Net Conservation Gain and Compensatory Mitigation on Federal Lands and Supporting a Federal Lands Mitigation Policy that Respects the Mitigation Hierarchy of Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate

Issue: Federal agencies, including the Department of Interior (DOI), the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), have issued regulations, policies and guidance imposing certain mitigation requirements, including landscape-scale mitigation net conservation gain objectives and prioritizing compensatory mitigation, that are without necessary authority.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the immediate revocation, rescission and revision of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s and U.S. Forest Service’s proposed mitigation policies on federal lands, to the extent not authorized by Congress.

Approved | March 5, 2018

Resolution Supporting a Coordinated Effort Between Federal, State and County Officials to Eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma Delicatula*), an Invasive Species Plaguing the Mid-Atlantic States

Issue: The spotted lanternfly was accidentally introduced to Berks County, Pennsylvania in September 2014 through an international shipment from Asia. Since then, the invasive species has caused significant agricultural, environmental and economic damage, especially harming the grape industry and other businesses in the Mid-Atlantic United States. Because the spotted lanternfly is attracted to and takes nourishment from the “Tree of Heaven” (*Ailanthus*) – an invasive plant found in nearly 90% of the United States – in order to procreate, most of the nation is threatened by this invasive insect.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a coordinated effort between the federal, state and local governments to eradicate the spotted lanternfly, an invasive species that negatively

impacts important agricultural and forest commodities as well as quality of life. NACo also calls on the federal government to provide significant financial resources to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other impacted states and county governments in combating the spread of this invasive species.

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