

Fully fund the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in FY 2020
Deadline COB Thursday, March 28

****THIS IS A LANGUAGE REQUEST****

Members are required to submit the request online.

Endorsements: National Association of Counties

Dear Colleague:

We encourage you to join us in sending the below letter to the Appropriations Committee, urging them to work in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral fashion to secure full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal year (FY) 2020 and beyond.

Nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states face the expiration of critical financial offsets for tax-exempt federal lands under their jurisdiction. These counties depend on PILT payments owed to them by the federal government to keep their communities afloat. PILT dollars allow local governments to provide critical health, education, cultural and emergency services to their residents and federal lands visitors. Failing to act to fulfill this long-standing obligation will leave counties across 49 states vulnerable and without the resources they need to serve and protect their citizens.

We urge you to support full funding of the PILT program, by signing the below letter. Please contact Paul.Babbitt@mail.house.gov (O'Halleran) or Printus.LeBlanc@mail.house.gov (Gosar) to sign or for more information. The deadline is COB on March 28th.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior
Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Environment and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce:

As the Appropriations Committee begins its work to set fiscal priorities for FY 2020, we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded.

PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. These dollars go toward supporting many critical services that counties are required to provide on federal public lands, despite their inability to collect property taxes on federal lands.

Without the certainty of full PILT funding for FY 2020, we risk severely crippling counties' ability to provide essential services for residents and visitors such as law enforcement, search and rescue, education, road maintenance and public health.

As counties across the United States work to balance their budgets, it is essential that we act to reaffirm the federal government's long-standing commitment to public lands counties by fully funding PILT. Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term and sustainable solution to fully fund PILT in FY 2020 and beyond.

We look forward to working with you to end the financial uncertainty facing thousands of counties nationwide, and we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,