

**URGE YOUR SENATOR TO SIGN THIS SENATE
LETTER IN SUPPORT OF PILT**
SENATE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM

March XX, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy,

As Members of Congress representing counties with federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that you work together 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. It supports the many critical services that counties provide on federal public lands. Without full funding for the PILT program in fiscal year (FY) 2020, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as law enforcement, education, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health to their residents and millions of federal lands visitors.

Moving forward, we hope Congress can work together to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to fully fund PILT and eliminate the ongoing funding uncertainty counties face. As counties across the country work to balance their own budgets, enacting full-funding for PILT is essential to provide certainty that the federal government will continue to uphold its long-standing commitment to public lands counties.

We look forward to working with you to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2020 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

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