



Proposed Policy Resolutions and Platform Changes

As Recommended by the NACo Board of
Directors Sitting as the Resolutions Committee

July 16, 2018



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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to Agriculture and Rural Affairs: RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE and AGRICULTURE

II. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Included as part of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR Act of 1996), Congress consolidated a number of rural development programs into the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP).

RCAP was comprised of three funding accounts – housing, utilities and business. RCAP provided the flexibility to develop innovative approaches to rural development problems locally. By permitting the transfer of up to 25 percent of the RCAP funds allocated to other programs within RCAP, local officials could direct more assistance towards the enhancement of jobs through education, infrastructure investment and economic development.

In recent years, funds for RCAP programs are appropriated under new and separate accounts within the Rural Housing, Rural Business Cooperative, and Rural Utility Services. RCAP no longer exists in name; however, program operations and implementation, including the flexibility to transfer funds within each account is not changed.

NACo supports this flexibility and urges Congress to adequately fund Rural Housing, Rural Business Cooperative and Rural Utility Services during the annual appropriations process.

Furthermore, NACo supports the Congressional Rural Caucus on issues of mutual interest and believes that the caucus is critically important to articulating the strengths and challenges of rural America. NACo also supports the ~~intent of the White House Rural Council and pledges to work with Chairman Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture~~ **creation of an interagency taskforce led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bring forward the perspectives of help bolster resources for** rural counties ~~to the council.~~

III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Subsection D. Economic Development

Rural economic development is generally thought of in terms of improving the employment opportunities, incomes, and well-being of the nation's people by strengthening the capacity of rural America to compete in a global economy.

NACo supports holistic approaches to rural development, such as the Rural Collaborative Investment Program (RCIP) **and the Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) Program**. By incorporating elected county and municipal officials, businesses, and non-profits in a multi-county region, ~~these~~ **these** programs would allow multiple sectors a chance to chart the future of their community. Additionally, NACo urges Congress to provide increased funding for local capacity and technical assistance.

IV. AGRICULTURE

Subsection B. Family Farm

NACo supports the concept of family farms in producing agricultural goods. Federal policies should support the maintenance and continued existence of family farms. NACo supports an examination by Congress and the Administration into the declining revenue to agriculture producers from food sales while there has been no reduction in the cost of food.

To keep the integrity of the family farm in place and in turn the fiscal solvency of many counties dependent upon agriculture, NACo supports the beginning farmer loan program. NACo also supports incentives, such as low-interest loans and tax credits, to be provided to young people entering farming and agribusiness in rural areas.

Farming is not simply an occupation but a lifestyle, and it is critical that farmers be able to teach their children and grandchildren how to perform agricultural work safely and responsibly. Statutory child labor parental exemptions should be kept in place in order to ensure the viability of the family farm.

Additionally, NACo supports ‘agribility’ programs within USDA that help physically challenged farmers in their agricultural duties.

IV. Agriculture

Subsection C. Land and Water Conservation

NACo recognizes the need to protect our nation's most environmentally sensitive lands and waters. Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), and others are important sources for technical assistance and are needed to help communities implement many important conservation measures.

NACo supports USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the valuable technical assistance their field offices provide. The NRCS plays a critical role for counties by addressing local conservation issues pertinent to county governments as well as Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

NACo urges Congress to fund and expand backlogged farm conservation programs such as the Conservation and Wetlands Reserve, Buffer, and Farmland Protection Programs. Flexibility should be allowed in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to permanently protect locally identified critical habitat areas. NRCS should be the sole federal agency with jurisdictional authority over agricultural wetlands areas in coordination with local officials.

NACo also supports USDA's National Conservation Buffer Initiative and its attempt to encourage the establishment of long-term conservation practices such as the creation of buffer strips, planting of trees for windbreaks, wildlife and other conservation enhancement purposes. This initiative will help landowners make good use of their best cropland and maintain their marginal area lands.

NACo is concerned about the loss of productive farmland to nonagricultural uses because of increasing development. NACo urges Congress, and the USDA to support measures to retain,

1 protect, and improve agricultural land, and conserve topsoil, consistent with local land use
2 policies and controls. An important aspect of the conservation process is the maintenance of
3 financial and technical assistance to establish practical methods to protect farmlands for
4 American farm families and retain farmland to maintain stable production of farm commodities.

5
6 NACo recognizes ~~the that role of federal, states and counties in coordination should be a~~
7 partnership should be enhanced by a common goal in identifying and implementing
8 conservation management practices. This would include the targeting of priority protection areas
9 in developing sound agricultural conservation management programs.

10 11 **IV. Agriculture**

12 **Subsection E. Farmworkers:**

13 According to USDA's Economic Research Service the total U.S. agricultural labor force has
14 declined over the past century and hired farm workers have become the largest proportion of all
15 farm workers. An estimated half of hired farm workers lack the legal status to work in the U.S.
16 These workers are a major presence in rural communities across our country and are vital for the
17 economic health of our agricultural sector, from large producers to family farms and ranches.
18 The H-2A visa program – the nation's only legally sanctioned guestworker program – does not
19 have the capacity to handle the nation's demand for hired farm workers. NACo supports a
20 sensible and orderly guestworker program for farm workers that significantly simplifies
21 administrative requirements for all employers equally, provides temporary legal status and
22 protections for migrant farm workers, and the possibility of obtaining permanent legal residence
23 in the United States.

24
25 **July 15, 2018**

26 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

27 28 **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

29 30 **Proposed Resolution on H-2A Administrative Rules Reform**

31
32 **Issue:** The U.S. Department of Labor should consider reforms to existing H-2A administrative
33 rules by addressing the following items: 1) Streamlining housing, transportation, and worker
34 certification approvals; 2) Re-evaluating housing program components to include a discussion of
35 vouchers, wage offsets, and a pre-employment housing needs survey; 3) Clarifying the term
36 “seasonality” and providing flexibility for farm worker movement to respond to production
37 needs; 4) Creating a simplified application processing system with a central portal housed under
38 the United States Department of Agriculture; and 5) Modernizing farm worker recruitment
39 methods to ensure timely certification of and arrival of farm workers.

40
41 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of
42 Labor to reform existing H-2A administrative rules to modernize and simplify the H-2A
43 application and certification processes and expand farm worker flexibility to ensure that a
44 reliable and capable workforce is available for the nation's farmers and ranchers.

45
46 **July 15, 2018**

47 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

Proposed Resolution on Rural Broadband

Issue: Rural residents lag behind their urban counterparts with respect to access to reliable and high-speed Internet services.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to strengthen sustained funding for rural broadband deployment and support cooperatives deploying telecommunications services by leveraging and streamlining key federal programs: the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS); the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Connect America Funds (CAF); U.S. Economic Development Administration grant program; and the Rural Infrastructure Program.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to Community, Economic and Workforce Development: HOUSING; Homeless Assistance Subsection

HOUSING

Under Subsection C. The Federal Role in Housing; No. 13 Homeless Assistance (third paragraph):

NACo strongly supports retaining Housing First as a best practice approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness. NACo also calls for an end to the practice of discharging large numbers of people into homelessness from hospitals, mental health and chemical dependency treatment facilities, jails and prisons without adequate community support systems. NACo commits to urging Congress to make investments in additional affordable and supportive housing alternatives from mainstream systems, so that supportive housing is available to those who are homeless or would be homeless without it.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on Protecting the Health and Safety of Sober Home Residents

Issue: Local governments continue to see a proliferation of sober homes within their boundaries and need additional clarity from the federal government on how they can protect the health and safety of sober home residents through reasonable regulations.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.

NACo also supports federal legislation to establish patient protection and best practices for sober homes.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

1 **Proposed Resolution to Maintain Current Funding for HUD-VASH Vouchers for Homeless**
2 **Veterans in FY 2019 Budget**

3
4 **Issue:** Support federal funding for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
5 program.

6
7 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to maintain current
8 funding for the HUD-VASH voucher program for homeless veterans at a level of not less than \$40
9 million for FY 2019.

10
11 **July 15, 2018**

12 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

13
14 **Proposed Resolution on FY 2019 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and**
15 **Urban Development**

16
17 **Issue:** Support FY 2019 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
18 Development (HUD).

19
20 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the
21 following levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
22 (HUD) programs in the FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related
23 Agencies Appropriations bill: no less than \$3.5 billion in Community Development Block Grant
24 (CDBG) formula funding; no less than \$1.5 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment
25 Partnership Program (HOME); no less than \$2.6 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants,
26 including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to
27 fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding
28 for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts; \$40 million for HUD-VASH and
29 \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

30
31 In addition, NACo opposes the imposition of a funding threshold to receive CDBG and HOME
32 Investment Partnerships program funds directly, or the revision of “grandfathering” provisions
33 that would remove participating jurisdictions from future funding eligibility.

34
35 **July 15, 2018**

36 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

37
38 **Proposed Resolution on Preservation and Expansion of Affordable Housing Stock**

39
40 **Issue:** Preservation and Expansion of the U.S. Affordable Housing Stock

41
42 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports strategies that
43 preserve and expand the supply of housing for low- and moderate-income families. These
44 include:

- 45
46 • The elimination of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) cap, which limits the number
47 of public housing units eligible for conversion under the RAD program to 225,000.

1 Elimination of this cap would promote access to the RAD program for more Public Housing
2 Authorities (PHAs) nationwide and create a more favorable environment to fully maximize
3 the opportunity to preserve and expand affordable housing. Increase the RAD Section 8
4 Project-Based rental subsidy to equal regular Section 8 Project-Based rental subsidies.
5

- 6 • Fully fund and expand the Public Housing Resident Self-Sufficiency Programs, Family Self
7 Sufficiency (FSS), Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS), the Jobs Plus
8 Initiative, and Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration programs funded by HUD that
9 provide tools for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to promote access to opportunity for the
10 families they serve.
11
- 12 • Release of the MTW Expansion Notice which gives more PHAs access to the MTW program
13 and supports legislation that expands the program for all PHAs.
14
- 15 • Adequately fund HUD's mainline programs of Section 8 vouchers and public housing.
16

17 **July 15, 2018**

18 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
19

20 **Proposed Resolution on Low-Income Housing Tax Credits** 21

22 **Issue:** Support an increase in the supply of affordable housing through the expansion of tools
23 such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.
24

25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase the
26 allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) by 50 percent and enact a permanent 4
27 percent credit rate floor for acquisition and bond-financed projects, allowing the program to
28 create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States. Additionally, NACo urges
29 Congress to provide enhancements and increased funding levels to all programs aimed at
30 increasing the supply of affordable housing.
31

32 **July 15, 2018**

33 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
34

35 **Proposed Resolution on the New Markets Tax Credit** 36

37 **Issue:** Support the reauthorization of the New Markets Tax Credit program in order to promote
38 community development and economic growth by attracting private investment in low-income
39 communities with high unemployment and poverty.
40

41 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide a
42 permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) and other enhancements to the
43 program to allow for private sector investment and economic growth in low-income
44 communities.
45

46 **July 15, 2018**

47 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

Proposed Resolution on Housing Infrastructure

Issue: Support the inclusion of affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to include affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package to provide counties with the resources necessary to create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on FY 2019 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Issue: Support FY 2019 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide adequate resources for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and fund the Title I, Title II and III accounts at the levels authorized and listed below:

Title I – Department of Labor

- \$861.1 million for Adult Employment and Training Services, \$922.2 million for the Youth Activities, and \$1.37 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

Title II – Department of Education

- \$649.287 million for Adult Education

Title III – Wagner Peyser Employment Services

- \$666.413 million for Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) – current-year levels to give states the additional resources they need to provide WIOA’s intensive reemployment services.

In addition, NACo supports only a WIOA formula allocation funding approach. NACo supports local control and investment at the county and municipality level, and rejects any mechanism that gives states more authority than WIOA intends.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

1 **Proposed Resolution on Registered Apprenticeships Program Flexibility**

2
3 **Issue:** Support flexibility for registered apprenticeships, academic and hands-on training.

4
5 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide
6 more flexibility for the Registered Apprenticeships Program to allow for more hours to be
7 achieved through relevant college and workshop classroom instruction, rather than all hours
8 having to be recorded working with a journeyman.

9
10 **July 15, 2018**

11 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

12
13 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Reauthorization and Appropriations for the Department**
14 **of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration**

15
16 **Issue:** Appropriations and reauthorization legislation for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s
17 Economic Development Administration (EDA)

18
19 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support
20 reauthorization and current appropriations for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s EDA to keep
21 communities strong and economically viable at this critical time in the history of our nation.

22
23 **July 15, 2018**

24 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to Environment, Energy and Land Use: WATER QUALITY; Wetlands Permitting and Navigable Waters Subsection

WATER QUALITY

Under Subsection D. Wetlands Permitting and Navigable Waters (first paragraph):

NACo supports the national policy goal of net gain/no net loss of wetlands and encourages a management approach that **first** avoids wetlands, **then** minimizes wetland loss and mitigates **any loss** as the final alternative. **This policy goal is intended to prevent new adverse impacts on both watershed, flood storage capacity and water quality impacts.** NACo supports additional federal funding for local governments to implement the national policy goal.

NACo supports a requirement to offset unavoidable wetland loss by mitigating **both watershed, flood storage capacity and water quality impacts by** restoring **these functions** through enhancement of existing wetlands, or creating new wetlands, when public need requires that public facilities, utilities, or improvements be developed over sensitive ecological areas.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Changes to Environment, Energy and Land Use: WATER QUALITY; Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Subsection

WATER QUALITY

Under Subsection F. Water Resources Development Act:

F. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA): NACo supports preserving and maintaining current federal law that provides for federal participation through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a long-standing partnership with state and local governments for funding, implementing, and maintaining essential and environmentally sound navigation, harbor, beach management, and flow control, **coastal and aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection, and environmental improvement** projects across this nation.

NACo supports federal matching funds for local governments to plan for **and implement projects that** ~~reducing~~ flood damage risks **and accomplish other goals** under the Water Resources Development Act (**WRDA**). NACo **opposes more of** ~~asks that~~ the federal share of water resource projects ~~not being~~ shifted to state and local governments, because most **projects are costly** state and local governments would ~~do~~ not have the fiscal resources to assume the federal share. **Additionally, many of these projects are intended to enhance or conserve regionally or nationally significant resources; and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. NACo urges Congress to appropriate the funds needed, where they are needed, to reduce the backlog of projects authorized under WRDA.**

1 NACo supports counties in ensuring requests that ~~they~~ counties be are consulted before the
2 federal ~~or state~~ government undertakes water resource projects within a county's the jurisdiction
3 of the county and that county concerns are incorporated into project planning.

4
5 NACo supports the federal government providing state and local governments with a major
6 voice in the decision-making process, which includes the authority to assume full responsibility
7 for planning and implementing flood control projects, ~~and~~ assessing and mitigating their
8 environmental impacts and determining the necessity or advisability of flood control projects
9 by the federal government.

10
11 NACo supports continued and increased funding for federal programs that assist counties
12 with planning and the implementation of projects that address habitat restoration and
13 connectivity, ecosystem restoration and resiliency, protection and enhancement of
14 ecological resources including fish and wildlife, and environmentally beneficial
15 modifications to existing projects.

16
17 **July 15, 2018**

18 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

19
20 **Proposed Platform Changes to Environment, Energy and Land Use: AIR QUALITY;**
21 **Climate Change Subsection**

22
23 **AIR QUALITY**

24 **Under Subsection J. Climate Change:**

25
26 All across the U.S., counties are experiencing new, often drastic, weather patterns and their
27 effects which are attributed to climate change. Regardless of manmade or a natural warming
28 cycle, as counties ~~shift and~~ adapt to a changing climate, NACo urges the federal government to
29 aggressively pursue and support:

- 30
31
 - National and international programs to research, develop and deploy carbon-neutral
32 energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - National and local strategies, including private sector initiatives, to mitigate the
33 impacts of climate change and enhance community resiliency; and
 - Research and development of new technologies and commercialization of existing
34 technologies that will contribute to reducing atmospheric carbon emissions.

35
36
37
38 NACo urges Congress to provide more federal funding, economic, fiscal and practical
39 incentives and awards for counties and businesses to meet these objectives. These programs
40 and policies must not create unfunded mandates or preemptions on counties and/or their local
41 economies.

42
43 ~~Instead, NACo urges Congress to provide more federal funding and practical incentives for~~
44 ~~counties and businesses to mitigate possible sources of climate change. This includes economic~~
45 ~~incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovation awards and funding for~~
46 ~~research and development.~~

1 Congress should also appropriate funding, tax credits and/or other fiscal incentives to develop
2 technologies and commercialize those technologies already developed, to reduce carbon dioxide
3 emissions.

4
5 Additionally, the federal government to work closely with counties on climate change
6 initiatives. NACo urges Congress to provide financial and technical assistance to local
7 governments to help develop and implement local climate change adaption and mitigation plans
8 and projects, including but not limited smart growth initiatives, mass transit development,
9 renewable energy deployment, acquisition of high efficiency fleet vehicles, renewable energy
10 deployment installation of emerging micro-grid and energy storage infrastructure,
11 protection of water supplies, and disaster planning and preparedness. NACo urges the federal
12 government to work closely with counties on climate change initiatives.

13
14 NACo is concerned about the fiscal impacts of climate change, as well as our responses to
15 climate change, ~~on~~ at all levels of government.

16
17 While NACo presently opposes cap and trade or carbon tax, NACo supports ongoing analysis
18 and evaluation of these and all other tools that seek to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,
19 including ~~the~~ their local economic and fiscal impacts.

20
21 **July 15, 2018**

22 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

23
24 **Proposed Platform Changes to Environment, Energy and Land Use: AIR QUALITY;**
25 **Climate Change Subsection; Supporting the Option to Transition to a Low-Carbon**
26 **Economy**

27
28 **AIR QUALITY**

29 **Under Subsection J. Climate Change:**

30
31 All across the U.S., counties are experiencing drastic weather patterns attributed to climate
32 change. Regardless of manmade or a natural warming cycle, as counties shift and adapt to a
33 changing climate, NACo urges the federal government to aggressively pursue national and
34 international programs to develop carbon-neutral energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas
35 emissions. These programs and policies must not create unfunded mandates or preemptions on
36 counties and/or their local economies.

37
38 Instead, NACo urges Congress to provide more federal funding and practical incentives for
39 counties and businesses to mitigate possible sources of climate change. This includes economic
40 incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovation awards and funding for
41 research and development.

42
43 Congress should also appropriate funding, tax credits and/or other fiscal incentives to develop
44 technologies and commercialize those technologies already developed, to reduce carbon dioxide
45 emissions.

1 Additionally, NACo urges Congress to provide financial and technical assistance to local
2 governments to help develop and implement local climate change adaption and mitigation plans
3 and projects, including smart growth initiatives, mass transit development, renewable energy
4 deployment, acquisition of high efficiency fleet vehicles and protection of water supplies. NACo
5 urges the federal government to work closely with counties on climate change initiatives.

6
7 NACo is concerned about the fiscal impacts of climate change, as well as our responses to
8 climate change, on all levels of government.

9
10 **NACo supports federal policies and programs that provide assistance and mechanisms for**
11 **willing counties along with local and state governments to partner with federal and**
12 **international entities in order to benefit economically from the global transition to a lower**
13 **carbon economy. Such policies and programs include those that assist willing counties in**
14 **developing strategies to foster economic growth and competitiveness and identifying ways**
15 **to leverage changing conditions and take advantage of new technologies and innovation.**

16
17 While NACo presently opposes cap and trade or carbon tax, NACo supports ongoing analysis
18 and evaluation of all tools that seek to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including the
19 local economic and fiscal impacts.

20
21 Likewise, NACo is concerned about EPA’s efforts to further constrict the mining, transportation
22 and burning of coal. EPA should undertake further consultation and research to fully understand
23 the impacts of existing and pending rules, regulations and standards will have on local
24 communities. This analysis should include the costs and benefits on electric utility operations,
25 electricity availability and capacity, electric rates, the economic impacts to manufacturers, and
26 the economic and health impacts to communities and consumers.

27
28 **July 15, 2018**

29 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

30 31 **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

32 33 **Proposed Resolution on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Waters of the U.S.** 34 **Definition Rulemaking**

35
36 **Issue:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
37 (Corps) are in the process of rescinding and rewriting the 2015 Clean Water Rule (the 2015
38 Rule) to redefine “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS).

39
40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports withdrawal and
41 rewriting of the EPA and Corps’ 2015 Rule in a way that recognizes counties’ role as owners of
42 key public safety and water infrastructure and as intergovernmental partners in implementing
43 federal regulations under the Clean Water Act. NACo recommends that the agencies work
44 closely with state and local governments to develop consensus for a new WOTUS rule.

45
46 **July 15, 2018**

47 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Codification of EPA’s Integrated Planning Framework**

2
3 **Issue:** Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance for sewer districts across the country is too costly

4
5 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the passage of legislation
6 that codifies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 2012 Integrated Municipal
7 Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework (Integrated Planning Framework),
8 under which sewer districts can seek more efficient and affordable solutions to CWA compliance,
9 and creates demonstration projects under which local communities will be allowed more flexibility
10 in their efforts to comply with the regulatory requirements of the CWA.

11
12 **July 15, 2018**

13 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

14
15 **Proposed Resolution on EPA’s Imposition of Numeric Water Quality-Based Effluent**
16 **Limitations on Local Governments**

17
18 **Issue:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is imposing watershed-wide
19 water quality standards on all localities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which will have
20 implications on other counties across the nation when such standards are imposed in other
21 watersheds.

22
23 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes U.S. EPA’s imposition
24 of localized numeric water quality-based effluent limitations or area pollution targets. NACo
25 opposes any provisions of any watershed-wide strategy that penalizes local governments by
26 withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management or
27 similar requirements on localities without providing sufficient resources to achieve water quality
28 objectives.

29
30 **July 15, 2018**

31 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

32
33 **Proposed Resolution on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Regulation of**
34 **Groundwater Under the Clean Water Act**

35
36 **Issue:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering regulating pollutants
37 originating from point sources that eventually reach surface water through groundwater via a
38 “direct hydrologic connection.”

39
40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the EPA to work closely
41 with state and local governments on potential regulations, guidance or clarifications on the
42 agency’s authority to regulate groundwater connections under the federal Clean Water Act
43 (CWA).

44
45 **July 15, 2018**

46 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

Proposed Resolution in Opposition of Material Preference Legislation

Issue: There is a national effort to eliminate local control of water, wastewater and stormwater (water) infrastructure systems, and it would deny engineers, utility managers, and local government officials the ability to design water systems in the manner that best serves the needs of their communities.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports local control of water infrastructure procurement decisions. NACo opposes federal legislation that sets mandatory requirements on local water infrastructure procurement decisions.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Provide Funding for Local Efforts to Address Sea Level Rise

Issue: Addressing the threat posed by rising sea levels to the built environments of coastal communities across the country

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide appropriate financial assistance and support to local governments for sea level rise and increased storm surge related initiatives and projects that aim to develop adaptive solutions to these potentially devastating events.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects

Issue: Allowing local governments to purchase sand from countries outside of the U.S. to replenish shorelines due to beach erosion

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

1 **Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act**

2
3 **Issue:** Coral reefs throughout the United States are threatened. In particular, the Florida Reef
4 Tract, the third largest barrier reef in the world and the only living coral reef in the continental
5 United States, is currently facing an unprecedented disease outbreak.

6
7 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Coral Reef
8 Conservation Reauthorization Act and any similar legislation that will dedicate needed resources
9 to improving the health of coral reefs. Specifically, NACo supports legislation that would:

- 10
11 • Strengthen the federal response to coral reef emergencies, such as the current disease
12 outbreak in Florida;
13 • Direct new federal grant making for local coral reef conservation projects;
14 • Provide Congressional authorization for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which gives
15 full representation to state and territorial governments;
16 • Support public-private partnerships that advance coral reef conservation and
17 stewardship;
18 • Authorize the U.S. Department of the Interior to conserve coral reefs in our national
19 parks, national wildlife refuges, and marine national monuments; and
20 • Engage our nation’s marine laboratories, aquariums, and coral reef institutes in cutting-
21 edge, federally funded research that advances our scientific understanding of coral reef
22 biodiversity and resiliency. Current research has not been able to properly identify or
23 find a cure for the current disease outbreak.

24
25 **July 15, 2018**

26 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

27
28 **Proposed Resolution on the Impact of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on**
29 **Human Health and the Environment**

30
31 **Issue:** Addressing the potential human health and environmental threat caused by per-and
32 polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

33
34 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by the U.S.
35 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to study health and
36 environmental impacts of PFAS compounds. Additionally, as the administration moves toward
37 potential regulatory action, NACo urges the administration to work closely with state and local
38 governments throughout the rule-making process.

39
40 **July 15, 2018**

41 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution on any Future Administration Budget Request to Eliminate**
2 **GOMESA Revenue Sharing Funds**

3
4 **Issue:** Amending or modifying the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to
5 redirect Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing activities and revenue sharing to the
6 U.S. Treasury and away from eligible coastal states and their counties, parishes and boroughs.
7

8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to oppose any
9 future administration budget request to eliminate GOMESA's revenue sharing with eligible
10 states, counties or parishes.
11

12 **July 15, 2018**

13 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
14

15 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Liquid Natural Gas Export Facilities Nationally**
16

17 **Issue:** Increasing liquid natural gas (LNG) infrastructure nationally will help stabilize the
18 economic impacts in communities of impact, reduce the carbon footprint and decrease air quality
19 impacts and increases global security.
20

21 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the further
22 development of liquid natural gas export facilities nationally.
23

24 **July 15, 2018**

25 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
26

27 **Proposed Resolution on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner and Water Control**
28 **Infrastructure Drawdowns Before Flooding Events**
29

30 **Issue:** A resolution urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to enact operating
31 procedures consistent with its mission and design to reduce downstream flooding from imminent
32 stormwater events.
33

34 **Proposed Policy:** NACo urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to revise
35 federal guidelines in coordination with local governing authorities that operate water control
36 projects to reduce downstream stormwater events.
37

38 **July 15, 2018**

39 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Change to Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs: ELECTIONS

Under ELECTIONS (after paragraph one)

Additionally, NACo strongly supports the role and functions of an U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that recognizes and focuses on the importance of rigorous testing of voting equipment and appreciates the efficiencies and cost savings of voluntary federal certification. NACo appreciates the important role the EAC plays in coordinating collaborative efforts among local, state and federal government officials in addressing issues associated with the field of election administration.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on Fully Funding the 2002 Help America Vote Act

Issue: States have used or obligated funds appropriated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to implement the requirements of the law and to improve the administration of elections. However, fulfilling the original intention of HAVA and fully funding the law is necessary to ensure states have the financial resources they need to sustain the improvements they have made since 2002.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund the required payments of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). These funds are allocated to states to continuously upgrade voting systems, registering voters in statewide voter registration databases, provide provisional voting options, improve voter accessibility and implement other improvements to the administration of elections. Continuous funding of election administration, beyond the one-time infusion of federal dollars from HAVA, is also critical. NACo urges the federal government to provide more funding to county governments for functional voting machines and to create awareness for increased voter participation. Continuous funding from the federal government sustains local election jurisdictions (counties and municipalities) to procure voting equipment that is critical to the nation's election infrastructure.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the Secure Elections Act (S. 2261)

Issue: The Secure Elections Act of 2017 (S. 2261) seeks to protect states' primacy in conducting elections; improve information sharing between the federal government and state, county and municipal election agencies; assist state, county and municipal election agencies in election cybersecurity preparedness; support states in replacing outdated and insecure electronic voting machines; and encourage robust sanctions in response to a state-sponsored hack on U.S. election systems.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by Congress to combat the cybersecurity threats that are already negatively impacting public perception of the integrity of elections. NACo appreciates that the Secure Elections Act would involve county election authorities in addressing these threats and that it seeks to share crucial information from federal authorities to state and local authorities and vice-versa.

NACo believes it is essential that election cybersecurity guidelines and grant administration remain coordinated within the existing structure of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) rather than having a new federal entity develop potentially conflicting guidelines.

In general, NACo urges Congress to adhere to the following guidelines in the Act or any related legislation:

- 1) giving greater representation to state and local authorities (including government Chief Information Officers) on any new advisory panel on election cybersecurity;
- 2) maximizing flexibility and opportunities for nimble, innovative and secure tabulation auditing protocols;
- 3) providing county election officials, government Chief Information Officers and other county technology resources with maximum information about cyber threats;
- 4) increasing the availability of interim election preparedness grants and the accessibility of these grants to counties, with criteria based on security principles rather than specific technologies;
- 5) authorizing a separate and sustainable allocation of funds for local governments; and
- 6) removing any "hack the election" program, or else placing it under the EAC.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Preserve Municipal Investment Options and Access to Capital for Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

Issue: State and local governments rely on access to robust capital markets to finance the construction and maintenance of schools, roads, public transportation systems, affordable housing, airports and other important infrastructure projects. Money market funds facilitate that access by investing in short-term municipal debt that is normally held to maturity. That access has been put at risk by a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule that requires prime and tax-exempt money market funds offered to institutional investors to no longer use amortized cost accounting to operate on a stable net asset value (NAV) basis. Instead, beginning October

1 14, 2016, such funds were required to use a floating NAV. Bipartisan and bicameral legislation
2 has been introduced in Congress to permit money market funds that invest in the short-term debt
3 of commercial entities and state and local governments to continue to use amortized cost
4 accounting for valuing fund assets. The legislation would preserve money market funds as a
5 source of liquidity and capital for the public infrastructure needs of our citizens.

6
7 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact S.
8 1117/H.R. 2319, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act, or similar
9 legislation. The legislation will preserve communities' access to capital and promote economic
10 development by expressly permitting any money market fund with the choice to operate on a
11 stable net asset value (NAV) basis if it adheres to certain requirements and restrictions. The
12 legislation would not have any impact on the other changes to the regulation of money market
13 funds that were adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2010 and 2014.

14
15 **July 15, 2018**

16 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

17
18 **Proposed Resolution on the Marketplace Fairness Act and Remote Transactions Parity Act**

19
20 **Issue:** Remote sales tax legislation

21
22 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages and supports
23 efforts to permit the collection of sales and use taxes from remote sellers and endorses remote
24 sales tax legislation like the Marketplace Fairness Act or Remote Transactions Parity Act to
25 provide states with the ability to enforce their existing state and local sales and use tax laws.

26
27 Any such legislation should:

- 28 • Establish a definition of what constitutes a reasonable “nexus” between a state or locality
29 and a vendor;
- 30 • Establish a consistent definition of “small business” and the small business exemption;
- 31 • Utilize a destination-based taxing system for online and remote sales; and
- 32 • Ensure local sales taxes are included in collection and distribution methods.

33
34 **July 15, 2018**

35 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

36
37 **Proposed Resolution to Oppose the ACA’s 40 Percent Excise Tax on High-Cost and**
38 **Employer-Provided Health Benefits**

39
40 **Issue:** Resolution to oppose the ACA’s 40 percent excise tax on high-cost and employer-
41 provided health benefits.

42
43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes the taxation of health
44 insurance benefits to county employees through the application of the ACA excise tax on health
45 insurance benefits for county employees, the capping of the tax exclusion for employer-based

defined contributions made by counties and any new taxes which would apply to the health benefits that counties provide to their employees.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act

Issue: Tax protections of incentives for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel expired in 2010 and must be reauthorized.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to reauthorize the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA), which would waive federal income taxes on nominal recruitment and retention incentives provided by local jurisdictions to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act

Issue: A bill that may restrict or disallow the Department of Justice from giving settlements funds from federal cases to states, counties, parishes and boroughs that are impacted from the lawsuits.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes regulatory actions or bills, such as the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act (H.R. 732/S. 333), that would disallow funds derived from court settlements from being distributed to states, counties, parishes and boroughs, including those for injuries related to the environment.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Federal Tax Intercept of Unpaid Court Fees

Issue: Re-introduce and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act to facilitate a federal tax intercept for recovering court debt.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to re-introduce and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

1 **Proposed Resolution Supporting the Municipal Advisor Rule**

2
3 **Issue:** The Security and Exchange Commission’s (SEC) Municipal Advisor rule under the Dodd
4 Frank Act.

5
6 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the 2013 rule released
7 by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the Registration of Municipal Advisors
8 (MA), as well as the operational guidance released by the SEC. Counties support regulations
9 separating the duties between MAs and financial advisors to prevent manipulation of government
10 finances or use of government financial transactions for personal gain.

11
12 **July 15, 2018**

13 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

14
15 **Proposed Resolution Supporting a Complete and Accurate Census 2020 Count**

16
17 **Issue:** Supporting a complete and accurate Census 2020 count

18
19 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports full funding for an
20 accurate and complete count during and throughout the 2020 Census. NACo supports the forming
21 of complete count committees at the local level. NACo urges Congress to provide enhanced
22 funding to rural counties, where access to reliable internet is a challenge, in order to support a
23 complete and accurate census count in rural communities.

24
25 **July 15, 2018**

26 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

HEALTH

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution Regarding Privatization of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Services

Issue: Several congressional initiatives have recommended that all medical and mental health services be privatized and treatment be provided by the private sector, totally eliminating direct medical and mental health services provided by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and community-based medical treatment facilities.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress not to enact any legislation that would privatize all medical and mental health services now provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to eligible veterans.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Funding for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Community Education and Outreach, and Caregiver Support

Issue: Lack of sufficient funding for Alzheimer's disease research, Alzheimer's community education and outreach, and resources for caregivers, family members, and individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the continuous and increased use of federal funding to support Alzheimer's disease research, Alzheimer's community education and outreach, and resources for caregivers, family members, and individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Prohibit Insurers from Denying Health Benefits to Pre-adjudicated Persons

Issue: Private insurance companies’ “inmate exclusion” shifts health care costs from pre-adjudicated inmates to counties.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to prohibit insurers from denying reimbursement under health benefit plans for covered services provided to pre-adjudicated persons in the custody of local supervisory authorities.

1 **July 15, 2018**

2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

3
4 **Proposed Resolution on Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for**
5 **Federal Benefits**
6

7 **Issue:** Immigrants' use of public health benefits and the impact of changes to eligibility on
8 county governments.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes specific changes to
11 existing immigration policy that would lead to increases in uncompensated care and shift federal
12 and state costs and the administrative burden to counties, including preventing access to and/or
13 penalizing immigrants for the use of federally-funded health care and public health programs
14 including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
15

16 **July 15, 2018**

17 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

18
19 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Local Efforts for Mobile Support Teams**
20

21 **Issue:** Address the need for local health departments' mobile support teams to work closely with
22 law enforcement agencies to promote safety and emotional stability when a behavioral health
23 crisis occurs.
24

25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts at
26 the federal and state levels to fully fund and promote mobile support teams within local
27 jurisdictions. NACo urges federal and state matching funds to maximize financial support for
28 local jurisdictions in implementing and operating mobile support teams.
29

30 **July 15, 2018**

31 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

32
33 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Amendment to 42 CFR Privacy Provisions to Allow**
34 **Information Sharing Between Behavioral Health and Law Enforcement for Jail Diversion**
35

36 **Issue:** To support the development of protocols and systems among law enforcement, mental
37 health, substance abuse, housing, corrections, and emergency medical service operations to
38 provide coordinated assistance to high utilizers. A high utilizer: (a) manifests obvious signs of
39 substance abuse, mental illness, or has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional
40 as having a mental illness; and (b) consumes a significantly disproportionate quantity of public
41 resources, such as emergency, housing, judicial, corrections, and law enforcement services.
42

43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports an amendment to 42
44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 privacy provisions to explicitly allow information
45 sharing between behavioral health, other health providers and law enforcement in order to best
46 serve individuals with substance use disorders.

1 **July 15, 2018**

2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

3
4 **Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Suspend, Instead of Terminate,**
5 **Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals**

6
7 **Issue:** Medicaid benefits may be withdrawn when an individual is incarcerated as opposed to
8 convicted.

9
10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass
11 legislation that: a) amends federal law to prohibit states from terminating eligibility for
12 individuals who are inmates of public institutions or residents of Institutes for Mental Disease
13 (IMD) based solely on their status as inmates or residents; and b) requires states to establish a
14 process under which an inmate or resident of an IMD facility, who continues to meet all
15 applicable eligibility requirements, is placed in a suspended status so that the state does not claim
16 Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for services the individual receives, but the person remains
17 on the state's rolls as being eligible for Medicaid; and c) once release or discharge from the
18 facility is anticipated, require states to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that an eligible
19 individual is placed in payment status so that he or she can begin receiving Medicaid covered
20 services immediately upon leaving the facility.

21
22 **July 15, 2018**

23 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

24
25 **Proposed Resolution on the Importance of the ACA and Medicaid Expansion**

26
27 **Issue:** Covering over 70 million individuals, Medicaid is the country's largest program providing
28 health coverage and health care services to the nation's low income population. The Affordable
29 Care Act (ACA) allowed states to expand their Medicaid programs, which provide billions of
30 federal dollars to counties for indigent health care services, behavioral health services,
31 preventative care, public health and coordinated care.

32
33 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports maintaining the
34 Medicaid program as a means-tested entitlement and further supports provisions in current law
35 that allow for expanded program eligibility and coverage standards. NACo urges Congress and
36 the administration not to repeal the Medicaid expansion. Maintaining eligibility and coverage
37 under the current program is essential to sustain the strong federal-state-local partnership that
38 underpins our nation's health system.

39
40 **July 15, 2018**

41 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

42
43 **Proposed Resolution Regarding the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment**
44 **Program**

45
46 **Issue:** County jails are not eligible for designation as health professional shortage areas for the
47 purpose of the National Health Service Corps.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program and allow county and municipal jails to be eligible for the program. Current law excludes county jails from being designated as health professional shortage areas and NACo urges Congress to review this designation and allow county and municipal jails to be named health professional shortage areas. NACo also calls on Congress to increase funding for the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program sufficiently to cover the newly eligible local jail sites without reducing funding available to currently eligible sites.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Extend Federal Medicaid Payments to Detainees in County Jails who are Pre-Adjudicated

Issue: Extending federal Medicaid payments to detainees in county jails who are pre-adjudicated.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a federal legislative change to require the federal Medicaid program to contribute the federal Medicaid match for health and mental health care that is provided while a pre-adjudicated detainee is actually incarcerated.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Extend the New Medicaid IMD Payment Provisions

Issue: Extending new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) provisions to non-managed care entities

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) request that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) extend the new Medicaid Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) payment provisions permitting up to 14 days per month of inpatient/residential care to IMD organizations that are not part of Medicaid managed care systems.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Care to Address the Opioid Crisis

Issue: Although opioid addiction very frequently follows the onset of depression, and opioid addiction frequently triggers depression within as few as 30 days, our patterns of care organization and funding do not make provision for a necessary linkage between mental health and substance use care.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government, specifically relevant agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to modify grant, technical assistance, and service funding programs that support the development and operation of integrated care to include provision for the integration of mental health and addiction care, including care for depression and opioid addiction.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797)

Issue: Support for the Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797)

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797) and urges Congress to ensure that reimbursements from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to non-VA facilities for the care they provide to eligible veterans through the Veterans Choice Program are processed in a timely manner. This will not involve any diversion of funds from other VA programs including, VA medical centers.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Change to Human Services and Education: SOCIAL SERVICES; Veterans' Services Subsection; Endorsing Financial Support for County Veterans Services Officers

SOCIAL SERVICES

Under Subsection G. Veterans' Services:

NACo strongly supports full funding to qualified veterans for educational, housing, and medical costs. County Veterans Service Officers, who are employed by counties, work to secure benefits for veterans by collaborating with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), state Departments of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Service Organizations. NACo endorses sustained federal **financial** support for CVSOs providing these benefits services. Benefits generated by CVSOs are not limited to individual veterans and often provide cost savings to local governments and revenue that goes back into the local economy. NACo endorses increased investments in solutions to veteran homelessness, and encourages both the Administration and Congress to continue to increase the resources targeted to end homelessness among veterans through programs such as the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF), and the Grants and Per Diem program. NACo supports a process that is responsive to the needs of veterans and their families, provides appropriate information, and facilitates administrative services.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on Early Childhood Development

Issue: Increased funding for early childhood development

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to increase investments in high quality early childhood development, including greater coordination among pre-school programs in schools and county run programs such as home visitation, child wellness, Head Start, Early Head Start and high quality childcare. Additionally, NACo supports legislation to fully fund early intervention entitlements through the Office of Special Education programs.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Two-Generation Efforts to Reduce Poverty

Issue: Poverty is a national problem and requires a national solution. In order to combat the harmful impacts of intergenerational poverty, federal, state and local partners should promote new methods of addressing these issues.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the federal government to pursue policies that support and enable state and local jurisdictions to coordinate a two-generation approach to combat poverty. Federal efforts to reform public assistance must recognize that poverty is influenced by national economic factors that are not within the control of local or state governments, and that local and state governments are best positioned to help their citizens when federal programs are flexible and support all generations within a family.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Enact the DREAM Act or Similar Legislation

Issue: The National Association of Counties (NACo) should support the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act or similar legislation.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls upon Congress and the president to enact the DREAM Act or similar legislation that, without imposing costs on counties, would allow certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children to attain legal status if they pass background checks, demonstrate good moral character and meet education requirements.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Fully Fund and Update the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

Issue: The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program expires at the end of the fiscal year. The House Ways and Means Committee has adopted a partisan, five-year reauthorization entitled the Jobs and Opportunity with Benefits and Services (JOBS) for Success Act (H.R. 5861).

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to provide greater state and county flexibility to create and provide services that support families and help move them off welfare, including allowing more flexibility in TANF program design such as allowing higher education to count as work; realistic time limits on education; and allowing states to use TANF funds to support post-secondary educational expenses. NACo supports congressional efforts to measure client outcomes instead of administrative processes, but is concerned that Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA) metrics may not be the best benchmarks to determine programmatic success.

1 NACo urges Congress to, at a minimum, retain and enhance state flexibility to use TANF funds
2 for subsidized employment. Given the demonstrated success of TANF subsidized employment
3 programs, NACo urges Congress to increase funding for those programs but not at the expense
4 of existing funding for the TANF block grant or contingency fund. Given that Congress has not
5 increased the \$16.5 billion TANF program since its enactment in 1996, NACo urges Congress to
6 ensure that reauthorization includes a provision increasing TANF funds annually at an amount
7 commensurate with the rate of inflation. NACo supports continuing the ability of states to
8 transfer up to ten percent of their TANF block grant to the Social Services Block Grant in order
9 to address locally-identified needs, such as responding to the opioid crisis. NACo further
10 supports continued ability of states to directly utilize TANF block grant funds for child care
11 expenses for families. Additionally, NACo urges transparency regarding the use of TANF block
12 grant and state “maintenance of effort” (MOE) funds.

13
14 **July 15, 2018**

15 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

16
17 **Proposed Resolution to Oppose the Proposed Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition**
18 **Assistance Program (SNAP) in the House Farm Bill**
19

20 **Issue:** The House Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2) would make sweeping changes
21 to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by increasing work requirements and
22 penalties for non-compliance, as well as restricting state and county administrative flexibility in
23 determining benefit eligibility. SNAP is a critical, often short-term support for families and has
24 proven to be one of the most effective countercyclical federal programs because benefits reach
25 families quickly during economic downturns as well as natural disasters.

26
27 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes provisions in the
28 Agriculture and Nutrition Act (H.R. 2) that would terminate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
29 Program (SNAP) benefits for families currently eligible for the program and increase county
30 administrative complexity in operating SNAP.

31
32 **July 15, 2018**

33 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

34
35 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress and the Administration to Maintain County Child**
36 **Welfare Flexibility and Funding**
37

38 **Issue:** In February 2018, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the Family First
39 Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The new law provides new federal entitlement funding for
40 optional foster care prevention services meeting stringent best practice benchmarks and will
41 create new federal requirements relating to congregate (group home) care that would reduce
42 federal IV-E reimbursement and shift costs to states and counties. The FFPSA did not extend
43 federal IV-E waivers slated to expire on September 30, 2019.

44
45 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Trump
46 Administration to provide administrative flexibility in the Family First Prevention Services Act
47 (FFPSA) to minimize the anticipated cost-shifts to states and counties that will occur by denying

FFPSA Title IV-E eligibility to children who would remain eligible for state or county-funded foster care and adoption assistance. Congress should also provide states and counties with sufficient flexibility to serve and protect abused and neglected children as done currently under some state laws. NACo further urges that Congress amend and/or the administration mitigates the law's proscriptive provisions intended to reduce the use of congregate care so that states and counties already proceeding with similar efforts may continue to do so. Additionally, Congress should extend federal IV-E waiver authority through September 30, 2024 unless comprehensive child welfare finance reform that reflects NACo's priorities is passed and implemented before waivers expire.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Address Sexual Abuse in Families

Issue: Resources and education to prevent sexual abuse in families

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Children's Bureau to focus prevention money through, but not limited to, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) for victims of sexual abuse, including commercially sexually exploited children, with evidence-based trauma informed care. NACo further supports programs, research and monitoring systems that prevent child abuse and neglect in families while ensuring that children who are victims receive treatment and care.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Strengthening Military and Veteran Caregiver Programs

Issue: Support for strengthening military and veteran caregiver programs

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that would strengthen services, including caregiver, financial planning and legal services, under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) military and caregiver programs. Additionally, NACo supports the enhancement of special compensation for members of the Armed Forces or veterans who require assistance in everyday life.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to Justice and Public Safety: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; Corrections Subsection (1)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Under Subsection D. Corrections (new section after 14. Incarceration of Undocumented Immigrants):

Training and Safety of Correctional Employees: NACo calls on Congress to prioritize funding that can be accessed by counties to provide training and services for employees of local correctional institutions. As Congress considers various criminal justice reform measures, the needs and safety of correctional employees should not be overlooked.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Changes to Justice and Public Safety: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; Corrections Subsection (2)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Under Subsection D. Corrections (new section after 14. Incarceration of Undocumented Immigrants):

Federal Support for Reducing Mental Illness in Jails: NACo strongly supports the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), which assists local efforts that aim to improve access to mental health treatment for individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system. NACo further supports full funding for this program in the annual appropriations process.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Changes to Justice and Public Safety: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM Section (1)

Under CRIMINAL JUSTICE (new section after M. County Coordination of Private Agency Programs):

Human Trafficking: NACo supports legislation and programs designed to prevent trafficking, protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and create partnerships across all levels of government, the private sector, and international agencies in order to enhance the collection, use and sharing of data. NACo supports victim centered and trauma informed programs designed to meet the needs of the victim including safe housing, mental health assistance and access to education. NACo also supports programs that eradicate the root

1 causes of vulnerability among trafficking victims - poverty and discrimination.
2 Furthermore, NACo supports programs that strengthen our legal network and those that
3 provide training opportunities for local government employees and their agents on
4 recognizing the signs of trafficking including government inspectors, law enforcement,
5 criminal justice, health care, transportation and public transit, educational partners, and
6 employees working with vulnerable populations.

7
8 July 15, 2018

9 Approved | NACo Board of Directors

10
11 **Proposed Platform Changes to Justice and Public Safety: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**
12 **Section (2)**

13
14 Under CRIMINAL JUSTICE (new section after M. County Coordination of Private
15 Agency Programs):

16
17 Tax Offenses and Identity Theft: NACo supports all legislation in Congress that would
18 reduce tax crimes and identity theft and would halt the victimization of millions of U.S.
19 taxpayers through losses due to several billion dollars in fraudulent claims. Such legislation
20 would encourage the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to dedicate additional resources,
21 including the use of investigative task forces, to address tax return identity theft. The
22 legislation would ask DOJ to focus resources in areas with a high rate of tax return identity
23 theft, coordinate investigations with state and local law enforcement agencies, and protect
24 vulnerable victims, including veterans, seniors and minors. The legislation would increase
25 penalties to help deter this type of crime and protect victims.

26
27 July 15, 2018

28 Approved | NACo Board of Directors

29
30 **Proposed Platform Changes to Justice and Public Safety: SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

31
32 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

33 Under Subsection E. Federal Responsibility for Drug Control:

34
35 NACo believes narcotics and dangerous drug traffic transcend state lines and international
36 borders; therefore, ~~regulation and control should be major federal responsibilities.~~ the federal
37 government should largely be responsible for regulating and enforcing against illegal drug
38 trafficking, while respecting states' right to decriminalize cannabis under state law. The
39 federal government should work closely with state and local governments to enforce
40 against cannabis drug activity that violates states' laws and regulations.

41
42 Under Subsection F. Control of Drug Manufacturers:

43
44 The federal government should exercise its legal power to strengthen and enforce regulations and
45 controls over manufacturers and distributors of dangerous drugs and narcotics, while respecting
46 states' right to decriminalize cannabis under state law.

1 New Section After Subsection H. Addressing the opioid crisis:

2
3 **I. Cannabis Policy: NACo urges Congress to enact legislation that promotes the principles**
4 **of federalism and local control of cannabis businesses with regard to medical and adult-use**
5 **of cannabis under state law. Congress should allow and encourage state and local**
6 **governments to enact and implement cannabis laws, regulations, and policies that**
7 **appropriately control production, processing, sales, distribution and use, as well as**
8 **promote public and consumer safety, should they choose to decriminalize and regulate**
9 **cannabis under state law. Limitations should be included to reduce the harms caused by**
10 **cannabis decriminalization under state law, including operating motor vehicles, under-age**
11 **use, substance abuse and detrimental health impacts. NACo also encourages Congress to**
12 **immediately enact legislation that would ensure greater access to banking for legally-**
13 **sanctioned commercial cannabis activities, as well as allow for proper medical research on**
14 **the effects of cannabis use.**
15

16 **July 15, 2018**

17 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

18 19 **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

20 21 **Proposed Resolution Supporting the Emergency Management Performance Grant** 22 **Program**

23
24 **Issue:** The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant
25 currently extant, and the most demonstrably successful DHS grant program. However, in light of
26 state funding shortfalls many state Emergency Management Agencies have reduced the amounts
27 of EMPG funding passed through to local government in many places often with little or no
28 input from or notice to counties. On several occasions, the President and/or Congress has
29 proposed reductions to or elimination of the EMPG as a whole, or incorporation of EMPG into
30 other programs.

31
32 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests that Congress
33 guarantee that the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) remain a separate
34 program, separately funded from all other grants that specifically address terrorism or other
35 specific issues (remaining, then, a truly all-hazards program), at or above current funding levels,
36 and require that a minimum of 70 percent of EMPG funds be passed through to local government
37 while continuing the 50-50 match requirement.

38
39 **July 15, 2018**

40 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

Proposed Resolution Supporting Inflationary Increase to the Emergency Management Performance Grant

Issue: The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant currently extant, and the most demonstrably successful Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant program for local governments. NACo has long supported the EMPG program. For nearly a decade, the EMPG program has remained steady at \$350,000,000 per year while inflationary costs have risen, eroding the fund. The National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) are working with Congress in light of the new spending caps to increase the EMPG funding by at least 5 percent to account for inflation.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests that Congress provide for an inflationary increase of at least 5 percent in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Fair Restructuring of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grants

Issue: Consolidation of existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management grants, particularly if these grants are administered solely by the states, will decrease local resilience and negatively impact national preparedness for disasters and emergencies of all types.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) continues to oppose the complete consolidation of the existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs, and requests that Congress mandate that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) actively include county Emergency Managers in creating alternatives that will better address the needs of all levels of government and that does not discard the advances gained through past grants.

NACo asks that Congress preserves, maintains, and enhances the Emergency Management Performance Grant and other all-hazard grants related to disaster recovery and mitigation as fully funded programs separate from grants directed at terrorism-related issues.

NACo asks that Congress works with DHS and FEMA to ensure that Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs address realistic risks from all hazards including, but not limited to, terrorism. State Administrative Agencies must make grant related prioritization decisions in transparent consultation and with the consent of local governments, and Congress should continue to require that no less than 80 percent of these funds be passed to local government in each state based on their realistic risk.

NACo asks Congress to require DHS to maintain the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) specific funding to at least 35 urban areas at greatest risk of disastrous event from all hazards including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism. In light of the significant populations, density,

1 infrastructure and economic drivers of these areas and the fact that the populations of large urban
2 counties and cities are often least able to financially address these risks without federal
3 assistance. The UASI program should remain jointly administered by the State Administrative
4 Agency and the existing UASI organizational units and continue to require that no less than 80
5 percent of these funds be passed through to the Urban Areas. NACo will work with Congress
6 and the other stakeholders to prepare updated legislative language to accomplish these goals.

7
8 **July 15, 2018**

9 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

10
11 **Proposed Resolution to Support National Standards for Emergency Management**
12 **Programs and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program**

13
14 **Issue:** Since 2001 Congress has sought metrics for understanding the capabilities and capacities
15 of local government to respond to, and be resilient in the face of, terrorism and other
16 emergencies and disasters. NACo recognizes that the capacities and resources of county
17 programs for emergency management will always vary. However, NACo has long invested time
18 and effort into the development and maintenance of national standards for county emergency
19 management programs through involvement with the Emergency Management Accreditation
20 Program Commission and the Emergency Management Standard.

21
22 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the use of the
23 Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Emergency Management Standard
24 administered through the EMAP as the national standard for assessment of the capability of
25 county emergency management programs. Additionally, NACo supports the current processes
26 and procedures the EMAP Commission uses to update and evaluate the Standard. The Standard
27 should be free from requirements not supported in the ANSI standard setting guidelines or the
28 EMAP Commission management process.

29
30 **July 15, 2018**

31 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

32
33 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the**
34 **Implementation of Emergency Management Strategic Goals**

35
36 **Issue:** In 2018 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a new five-year
37 strategy for the agency. As part of that strategy, FEMA set forth a new concept for coping with
38 the rising cost of major disasters and emergencies and the limited capacity of the agency to
39 adequately manage all emergencies.

40
41 The keystone of this new strategic approach is that FEMA will oversee major emergencies and
42 disasters in a new way, which is federally funded, state managed and locally executed. The
43 FEMA strategy document does not, however, detail any partnership between FEMA and local
44 government in the policy, prevention, planning, response, and mitigation and recovery realms.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the development, analysis and implementation of emergency management policy and procedures in the United States to ensure that “state management” of emergencies and disasters is carried out with transparency and due attention to the needs of local government, and that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute appropriate activity.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on FEMA’s Deobligation of Approved Disaster-Relief Funds

Issue: Since 2010, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has aggressively sought to recover and deobligate previously-approved recovery funds distributed to local governments by FEMA through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act. The process has created growing uncertainty in counties’ ability to accept disaster-relief funds.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would establish a 3-year statute of limitation on deobligation of FEMA Public Assistance funds from the date a project is certified complete by the state (grantee).

The National Association of Counties (NACo) also urges the federal government to clarify the process whereby FEMA can declare that funds distributed to local governments and approved by FEMA for disaster relief efforts are deobligated; so as to ensure that:

1. The deobligation process includes a reasonable timeframe for counties to respond to information requests;
2. FEMA makes timely decisions on appeals filed by counties that face the potential rescission of previously appropriated federal funds; and
3. Precludes FEMA from immediately rescinding previously obligated funds from the grantee, once the subgrantee has stated its intent to appeal, in a timely fashion, FEMA’s decision.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Program Improvements

Issue: County priorities in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges congressional committees of jurisdiction to include local and state stakeholders in the process of drafting legislation to craft an affordable and sustainable reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

1 A reauthorization bill should:

- 2
- 3 • Enhance National Flood Insurance Program solvency and sustainability
- 4 • Enhance flood insurance affordability and accessibility
- 5 • Reduce premium costs through an agreed value pilot program
- 6 • Provide private market access, accountability and competition
- 7 • Modernize flood mapping and flood risk accuracy
- 8 • Enhance National Flood Insurance Program transparency and accountability
- 9

10 Specifically:

- 11
- 12 • **Rates** – should be publicly disclosed and affordable and developed in a transparent
- 13 manner. Section 205 (Pre-FIRM) subsidies should be applied to all categories of
- 14 property, including second homes and businesses;
- 15 • **Program Administration** – Write Your Own (WYO) payments must be capped, and risk
- 16 should be spread by increasing the pool of policyholders through enforcement,
- 17 incentivizing sales methods, and expansion of the Preferred Risk Policy;
- 18 • **Affordability** – preserve grandfathering regardless of the time of map adoption, preserve
- 19 the reserve fund set-aside and change the 1 percent limit on premium to coverage ratio to
- 20 a hard cap. If rates must rise, ensure that the rate of increase does not exceed five percent
- 21 per year on any policy, inclusive of surcharges and fees;
- 22 • **Privatization** – require private insurers to reflect the entire spectrum of risk (i.e. no
- 23 cherry-picking of preferable policies);
- 24 • **Mapping** – should be transparent, fair to local communities and include input from local
- 25 governments; appeal caps must be lifted and a method to pay for mapping elevations
- 26 should be developed; mapping should utilize the most effective technology available.
- 27 • **Mitigation** – funding for mitigation should be increased, and NFIP premiums should be
- 28 allowed to count as community and homeowner mitigation efforts; oppose unfunded
- 29 mandates to local governments for mitigation efforts;
- 30 • **Consumer Protection** – a policy review process should be created, Flood Insurance
- 31 Advocates should be regionalized and Force-Placing provisions should be amended to
- 32 keep policyholders in NFIP instead of surplus lines.
- 33

34 **July 15, 2018**

35 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

36

37 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Legislation Providing Mitigation Funds for Certain Areas**
38 **Affected by Wildfires**

39

40 **Issue:** Support for Legislation Providing Mitigation Funds for Certain Areas Affected by
41 Wildfires

42

43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that
44 provides dedicated mitigation funds by providing up to 15 percent of the cost of a Fire Mitigation
45 Assistance Grant (FMAG) to support wildfire mitigation projects.

1 **July 15, 2018**

2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

3
4 **Proposed Resolution Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act**

5
6 **Issue:** Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund
7 their EMS operations. As a result, many agencies experience difficulties recruiting personnel,
8 providing EMS licensure classes and obtaining sufficient medications and medical supplies.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the
11 Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN Act, H.R. 5429/S. 2830). This bill
12 would reauthorize and amend a grant program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human
13 Services to provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to recruit personnel, procure
14 emergency medical supplies and provide EMS training classes. Only public and nonprofit
15 agencies would be eligible to receive these funds.
16

17 **July 15, 2018**

18 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

19
20 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Deflection Initiatives**

21
22 **Issue:** Communities across the country are facing a behavioral health crisis related to substance
23 abuse. In an effort to provide resources needed to combat the devastating impacts of the crisis,
24 law enforcement agencies are implementing deflection program initiatives. These innovative
25 programs - intended to divert non-violent individuals experiencing addiction, substance use, and
26 mental health disorders from jails into community treatment programs while protecting public
27 safety – connect individuals directly to the services needed.
28

29 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase
30 financial support for measures that maximize the ability of counties to develop and support
31 programs that deflect non-violent individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis into treatment
32 driven by a complete, integrated and accessible continuum of care. NACo encourages federal
33 legislative action to expedite the creation of collaborative deflection initiatives that offer
34 immediate pathways for non-violent individuals to treatment and other services as an alternative
35 to traditional involvement in the criminal justice system.
36

37 **July 15, 2018**

38 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

39
40 **Proposed Resolution Supporting the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)**

41
42 **Issue Statement:** Restore full reimbursements to states, counties, and cities for the costs of
43 housing criminal aliens as provided in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of
44 1994 (P.L. 103-322.)

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes recently proposed cuts to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and urges Congress to appropriate funding that fully reimburses states, counties and cities for the costs of housing criminal aliens.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Finalizing Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act

Issue: The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPa) has not been reauthorized since 2002. Both chambers of Congress have approved reauthorization bills, but differences in the measures must be reconciled before a single bill can be signed into law.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to reconcile differences between JJDPa reauthorization measures passed by the U.S. Senate (S. 860) and U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1809) so that a single reauthorization bill can be signed into law during the 115th Congress.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Reauthorization of the Second Chance Act

Issue: Reauthorization of the main source of federal funding for local reentry programs

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges congressional leaders to reauthorize the Second Chance Act, which funds local programs that help formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society, access needed treatments and gain and maintain employment.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Support Efforts by the National Fire Protection Association, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Others to Regulate the Service Life of Fire Protective Clothing by Amending National Fire Protection Association Standard 1851 that Mandates Retirement of Such Clothing Based on Manufacture Date

Issue: The service life of firefighting personal protective equipment, which includes helmets, boots, coats and pants (“fire protective clothing” or “bunker gear”) is governed by a standard that mandates retirement of the gear based on manufacture date and not consideration of integrity, meeting applicable specifications or safe use.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support efforts by the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”), National Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health (“NIOSH”), International Association of Fire Chiefs (“IAFC”), Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (Metro Chiefs”) and others working to: (1) amend NFPA Standard 1851 (“NFPA 1851”), the Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting; (2) evaluate the functionality, safety and integrity of the fire protective clothing for compliance with all applicable laws and standards; and (3) change standards that regulate the service life or use of bunker gear through objective technical specifications correlated to the capacity of the equipment to protect firefighters during its intended use.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Direct the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to Expedite Research Assessing the Performance Requirements and Retirement Criteria of Fire Fighter Turnout Gear to Determine the Safe Life Cycle of Said Gear

Issue: The service life of firefighting personal protective equipment, which includes helmets, boots, coats and pants (“turnout gear” or “bunker gear”) is governed by a National Fire Protection Association standard that mandates retirement of the gear based on manufacture date and not consideration of integrity, meeting applicable specifications or safe use.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (“NIOSH”) to expedite its research on firefighter turnout gear. NIOSH proposes to evaluate the functionality, safety and integrity of turnout gear by assessing its performance and effectiveness while being used in a number of varied conditions. This scientific data will be reviewed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and could assist the NFPA with determining the safe service life or use of turnout gear by identifying objective technical specifications to be evaluated and correlated with the capacity of the equipment to protect firefighters during its intended use. Such data could also be used to inform amendments of NFPA Standard 1851 (“NFPA 1851”); Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PUBLIC LANDS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to Public Lands: FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT; Special Use Designations Subsection

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Under Subsection D. Special Use Designations:

Congress, the President in the case of proposed national monuments, and federal agencies shall coordinate, consult and confer with affected counties as early as possible when considering special land use designations that impact the use and status of public lands. County approval should first be sought, and if given then counties should be fully involved in the drafting and development of any legislation pertaining to wilderness designation and proposed national monument designations within any affected county's jurisdiction. NACo strongly encourages congressional delegations to only consider future wilderness legislation or a proposed national monument designation that has demonstrated considerable support from affected counties. Public hearings must be held in the counties affected by the proposed designation. There must be compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NACo opposes legislative efforts to require inventoried roadless areas to be managed in accordance with the Roadless Area Rule issued in January of 2001. NACo opposes federal land management actions that limit access and multiple use of lands that otherwise would be available to the public such as designations commonly referred to as "de facto wilderness". Unless approved by Congress, NACo opposes de facto wilderness, and federal land use restrictions on the use of public or private lands in the proximity to a designated wilderness or a Wilderness Study Area.

NACo supports amending the Antiquities Act to require state and local government approval to provide transparency and accountability in the designation of national monuments. In cases where such state and local government approvals have been obtained, continued federal coordination and consultation with state, county, and tribal governments and consistency with their master management plans should be required prior to the development and designation of any national monument.

NACo supports special use designations of federal lands that are proposed by local residents and businesses, are consistent with existing land use policies, and are strongly supported by the affected stakeholders and counties in the area within which designations are proposed.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

1 **Proposed Platform Changes to Public Lands: FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT; Wild**
2 **Horse and Burro Management Subsection**

3
4 **FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT**

5 **Under Subsection H. Wild Horse and Burro Management:**

6
7 NACo urges support for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in its management of wild
8 horse and burro populations to achieve appropriate management levels (AML) as authorized by
9 the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (as amended) (the Act). NACo supports
10 restoring congressional funding for the Act's sale-without-restrictions provisions. Further,
11 NACo supports the sale, adoption or humane slaughter of excess animals and the funding and
12 utilization of sterilization technology and methods that are proven to be effective in
13 controlling herd sizes as viable options to achieve populations consistent with established
14 appropriate management levels. NACo supports Congressional legislation to give individual
15 states exclusive authority to manage wild horses and burros on federal lands, including exclusive
16 authority to determine appropriate AMLs and authority to dispose of animals that exceed AMLs.

17
18 **July 15, 2018**

19 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
20

21 **Proposed Platform Changes to Public Lands: FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT; Forest**
22 **and Rangeland Health Subsection**

23
24 **FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT**

25 **Under Subsection J. Forest and Rangeland Health:**

26
27 NACo supports forest health initiatives, as well as the broader use of categorical exclusions
28 under NEPA in cases of imminent threats to community watersheds, to timely and
29 effectively address the threat of catastrophic events to our public forest and rangeland resources.
30 Federal land management agencies shall utilize an appropriate mix of management practices
31 including categorical exclusions and increased private, local and state contracts and
32 partnerships for pre-fire management, effective fire suppression, and restoration of federal forest
33 and rangelands. As a goal, NACo supports legislation to direct and enable federal forest
34 management agencies to reduce Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC 3) to a standard of FRCC 1
35 in all federal forests, except in designated Wilderness Areas, by the year 2030, and to reduce
36 FRCC 2 to the standard of FRCC 1 in all federal forests by the year 2050, through means of
37 active landscape scale management, fuels reduction and immediate post-fire restoration.

38
39 **July 15, 2018**

40 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed 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*) in order to procreate—an invasive plant found in nearly 90 percent of the United States—most of the nation is threatened by this invasive insect.

Proposed 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 targets important agricultural and forest commodities as well as quality of life issues. NACo also calls on the federal government to provide significant financial resources to assist state and county governments in combating the spread of this invasive species.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Repair and Maintain the Public Land Survey System

Issue: The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) is in a varying degree of deterioration nationwide due to the lack of resources provided to counties.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide additional funding to counties to support the existing Public Land Survey System. NACo further urges the federal government to enforce existing guidelines and rules for the PLSS.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Amending the Recreation and Public Purposes Act

Issue: Support congressional action to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to require the U.S. Department of the Interior to establish a pilot program that authorizes commercial recreation concessions on land patented or leased under the act.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would allow counties which have federal lands within their park system the opportunity to offer concessions operated by third party vendors. This would increase public recreational opportunities and enjoyment of these lands operated by counties.

1 **July 15, 2018**

2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

3
4 **Proposed Resolution on the Removal of Salt Cedar**

5
6 **Issue:** Support congressional action to address the permitting process and funding for the
7 removal of invasive species from many of the rivers throughout the southwest.

8
9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislation
10 and/or regulatory policies that would allow county governments to comprehensively remove salt
11 cedar from rivers within their jurisdictions.

12
13 **July 15, 2018**

14 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

15
16 **Proposed Resolution Opposing Federal Regulations and Policies Requiring Landscape-**
17 **Scale Mitigation, Net Conservation Gain and the Prioritization of Compensatory**
18 **Mitigation on Federal Lands and Supporting a Federal Lands Mitigation Policy that**
19 **Follows the Mitigation Hierarchy of Avoid, Minimize and Compensate**

20
21 **Issue:** Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the Bureau of Land
22 Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the U.S. Forest Service
23 (USFS), have issued regulations, policies and guidance imposing certain mitigation
24 requirements, including landscape-scale mitigation, net conservation gain objectives and the
25 prioritization of compensatory mitigation, that are without necessary authority.

26
27 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the immediate
28 revocation, rescission and revision of the U.S. Department of the Interior's, U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife Service's and U.S. Forest Service's proposed mitigation policies on federal lands to the
30 extent not authorized by Congress. NACo believes that federal law supports a mitigation policy
31 that follows the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimize and compensate, and that any mitigation
32 requirements should be based on best practices and proportional to impacts on federal lands.

33
34 **July 15, 2018**

35 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

36
37 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend and Update the Endangered Species Act**
38 **of 1973**

39
40 **Issue:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 has not been significantly modified in 40
41 years.

42
43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the
44 ESA to reflect its intended purpose "to protect endangered species and the ecosystems which
45 they depend" and to ensure that the rights of people are also protected.
46 The ESA needs to be amended in the following manner:

1. Favor decisions to list plant or animal species as threatened or endangered (T&E listing decisions) that are made through best available science with increased transparency and timelines for decisions.
2. In states where the proposed federal land use plan amendment and the state species management plan are inconsistent, postpone T&E listing decisions for a period of at least six years or until the plans become consistent.
3. Encourage or direct the U.S. Secretary of Interior (Secretary) to share critical data, research and scientific information to assist such states and counties in their conservation efforts.
4. Direct federal land management agencies to amend their land use plans to comply with state and county-based conservation efforts.
5. Strengthen the influence of local participation so that local coordination processes and recommended species management policies are not overridden.
6. Authorize the ESA to recognize and allow consideration of the predation of threatened or endangered species by natural events (such as predator impacts, weather-related events and physical health threats) as well as human activities.
7. Revise “taking” definition to protect private property rights in conformance with the United States Constitution.
8. Provide full compensation to individuals for current and long term takings. Require mandatory cost-benefit analyses for all adverse socio-economic and cultural impacts on the affected human population.
9. Require that the science used to make any determination be subject to independent and objective third party review.
10. Mandate that a listing of endangered species be reviewed every seven years to determine if a listing is still warranted.
11. Require all parties pay their own attorney’s fees involving any legal action associated with the ESA.
12. Transfer critical habitat designations and recovery planning to the states.
13. Require Congress to approve a listing within one year, and if such approval is not timely given, the species shall be removed from the list.
14. Empower and support local management solutions at the state and county level for intrastate species.

1 15. Prohibit ESA listings of candidate species found residing exclusively within a single
2 state.

3
4 16. Postpone the listing and/or federal protection of a species that has recently been
5 determined by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be threatened or endangered,
6 and which are located in states or counties that have developed and/or implemented a
7 good faith conservation management plan for said species.
8

9 **July 15, 2018**

10 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

11
12 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Support the Return of 40 Percent of Federal**
13 **Mineral Lease Revenue to the County in which it was Generated**
14

15 **Issue:** The right for a reasonable share of federal mineral lease and mineral lease bonus revenues
16 to be returned to the counties who are socially or economically impacted by mineral
17 development.
18

19 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend
20 the Federal Mineral Lease Act to clarify that the current percentage of a state's share
21 of federal mineral lease and mineral lease bonus revenue, or 40 percent of such share, whichever
22 is greater, shall be returned to the county of origin.
23

24 **July 15, 2018**

25 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

26
27 **Proposed Resolution Supporting a Requirement for Private Entities that Sell or Donate**
28 **Property to the Federal Government to Pay a Fee in Lieu of Taxes**
29

30 **Issue:** Private lands either sold or donated to the federal government for conservation purposes
31 result in such property becoming exempt from local property taxation; thereby, reducing overall
32 taxable market value of affected counties.
33

34 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact federal
35 legislation to require private entities that sell or donate private land to the federal government for
36 conservation purposes to pay an annual fee in lieu of property taxes (FILT) to affected counties.
37 NACo recommends that the FILT be based upon the actual property taxes paid on the land at the
38 time that it was removed from the tax rolls.
39

40 **July 15, 2018**

41 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps**

2
3 **Issue:** Counties, boroughs, townships, and parishes with populations of under 5,000 have
4 monetary caps within the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula that place them in an
5 unfavorable position in relation to counties with populations greater than 5,000.

6
7 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the
8 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula to extend the population multipliers to include
9 additional multipliers for local governments with populations in the range of 4,000, 3,000, 2,000,
10 and 1,000. The increase in the 4,000 multiplier would have the same ratios as the difference in
11 50,000 and 40,000 population when compared to 5,000 population. The increase in the 3,000
12 multiplier would have the same ratios as the difference in 40,000 and 30,000 population when
13 compared to 4,000 population. This will continue on for counties with 1,000 and less population.
14 All local governments would have a minimum payment no less than the population cap of local
15 governments of 1,000 population.

16
17 **July 15, 2018**

18 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

19
20 **Proposed Resolution to Prohibit Wilderness Characteristics Cataloging and Inventory by**
21 **Federal Land Management Agencies**

22
23 **Issue:** Wilderness characteristics cataloging and inventory without legal authority under the
24 Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) since 1992

25
26 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes any continuing
27 wilderness characteristics inventory and cataloging by federal land management agencies.

28
29 **July 15, 2018**

30 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

31
32 **Proposed Resolution to Cease Wilderness Characteristic Inventory in Alaska**

33
34 **Issue:** The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 still allows wilderness characteristic
35 inventory in Alaska that is not allowed in the lower 48 and Hawaii.

36
37 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports striking Section 603,
38 43 U.S.C. 1784 Lands in Alaska; Bureau of Land Management Land Reviews [P.L. 96-487, title
39 XIII, §1320, 1980] of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

40
41 **July 15, 2018**

42 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Robust Remediation of Abandoned Uranium Mines as a**
2 **Critical Priority for the United States.**

3
4 **Issue:** Throughout numerous counties across the nation, for example the Navajo Nation within the
5 Four Corners area, abandoned uranium mines continue to jeopardize public safety and the
6 environment. Uranium mining has resulted in elevated uranium and radon radiation levels at over
7 400 locations on the Navajo Nation.

8
9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact
10 legislation for the aggressive treatment of abandoned uranium mines across the United States to
11 protect public health and the environment.

12
13 **July 15, 2018**

14 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

15
16 **Proposed Resolution Supporting the Use of FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Funding**
17 **to Engage in Forest Thinning and Restoration Activities, Including Using FEMA Flood**
18 **Mitigation Assistance for Forest Restoration to Reduce the Threat of Catastrophic Fire and**
19 **Post Wildfire Flooding and Debris Flows**

20
21 **Issue:** The need for adequate, robust, and timely forest restoration to mitigate the threat of future
22 catastrophic crown fires and reduce the risk associated from post wildfire flooding and debris flow
23 events is critical to reducing the threat to public safety that many western forested counties
24 confront.

25
26 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to pass
27 legislation increasing appropriations for and allowing for the use of FEMA pre-disaster mitigation
28 grant funding for forest thinning and restoration activities, including using FEMA flood mitigation
29 assistance for forest restoration to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire, post wildfire flooding and
30 debris flows.

31
32 **July 15, 2018**

33 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

34
35 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Federal Funding to Promote and Expedite Building of**
36 **Wood Products Industry in Regions with Low to No-Value Trees to Allow Consumption of**
37 **Forest Products as a Pathway to Forest Restoration and Reduction of the Risk of**
38 **Catastrophic Wildfire**

39
40 **Issue:** The wood products industry is a valued partner in restoring our forests and reducing the
41 threat of catastrophic wildfire. Without a viable wood products industry that can consume the
42 forest products that are removed from the forest through various restoration activities, communities
43 will continue to face an elevated threat of catastrophic wildfire.

44
45 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal funding to
46 promote and expedite the building of the wood products industry in regions with low to no-value

1 trees to allow consumption of forest products as a pathway to forest restoration and reduction of
2 the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

3
4 **July 15, 2018**

5 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

6
7 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Federal Public Lands Agencies Tourism and Recreation**

8
9 **Issue:** Federal public land agency operating budgets have a substantial impact on county
10 recreation-based economies through their tourism and visitation programs. Future decreases in
11 spending for these agencies will restrict the continued growth and health of counties heavily
12 dependent on tourism and recreation.

13
14 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to maintain
15 current funding levels, and if possible provide additional funding, for federal public lands
16 agencies' operating budgets. These agencies, including the National Park Service, the U.S.
17 Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, have a
18 positive impact on counties with economies heavily dependent on tourism and recreation.

19
20 **July 15, 2018**

21 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

22
23 **Proposed Resolution Urging that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Policies Include Counts of**
24 **Utah Prairie Dogs and Other Threatened and Endangered Species on Private and State**
25 **Trust Lands as well as Federal Lands for the Purpose of Measuring the Success of Species**
26 **Recovery Efforts**

27
28 **Issue:** Inventory counts of recovering Utah Prairie Dogs and other recovering Threatened and
29 Endangered Species

30
31 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service (USFWS) to modify its policies to include the counting of Utah Prairie Dogs
33 and other recovering threatened and endangered wildlife on private lands and state trust lands as
34 well as federal public lands for the purpose of measuring the success of species recovery efforts.

35
36 **July 15, 2018**

37 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution Urging the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to Allow Permitless**
2 **Gathering of Wood Products from Areas Where Those Products are Already Planned for**
3 **Controlled Burn, Slashing, Chipping and Other Treatments**

5 **Issue:** Permitless gathering of wood products by the public off of Forest Service and BLM lands,
6 before the agencies destroy those wood products in a planned treatment project

8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Forest Service
9 and the BLM to give members of the public notice and opportunity for permitless gathering and
10 private or commercial use of wood products from areas where the agencies are planning
11 controlled burn, slashing, chipping, bull hogging and similar destructive treatments. This
12 permitless gathering of wood products by members of the public would occur during an
13 announced window of time after agency final approval of the treatment project but before the
14 project is actually carried out.

16 **July 15, 2018**

17 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

19 **Proposed Resolution Urging the BLM to Follow FLPMA and Place Maximum Feasible**
20 **Reliance on the Local County Sheriff for all the BLM's Law Enforcement Needs, Before**
21 **Deploying BLM Law Enforcement Officers, or in the Alternative Urging Congress to**
22 **Abolish the BLM's Law Enforcement Program if the BLM will not Follow FLPMA's**
23 **Direction**

25 **Issue:** The BLM has not followed the direction of the Federal Land Policy Management Act
26 (FLPMA) to place maximum feasible reliance on available local law enforcement including
27 county sheriffs and their officers for all the BLM's law enforcement needs, before the BLM
28 deploys its own law enforcement officers.

30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges all BLM field offices,
31 district offices and state offices to follow FLPMA's direction in 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to achieve
32 maximum feasible reliance upon willing and available local law enforcement officials in
33 enforcing federal land management laws and regulations, and paying fair amounts for available
34 sheriff services pursuant to contracts entered into for those services, before the BLM deploys its
35 own law enforcement officers. If the BLM refuses to follow FLPMA's direction in this regard,
36 then NACo urges Congress to amend 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to abolish the BLM law enforcement
37 program altogether and require the BLM to turn to county sheriffs for all law enforcement
38 assistance pursuant to fair contracts to pay for sheriff services.

40 **July 15, 2018**

41 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

1 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Prevent the Establishment of a National**
2 **Monument in a State Without that Affected State’s and County’s Approvals**
3

4 **Issue:** The growing abuse of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to enable huge national monuments,
5 amounting to one-sided presidential lockups of public lands with no input from Congress or the
6 affected states and counties.
7

8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports congressional
9 legislation modifying the Antiquities Act to prevent designating a national monument without
10 the affected state’s and county’s approvals.
11

12 **July 15, 2018**

13 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
14

15 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Presidential Proclamations 9681 and 9682 Dated**
16 **December 4, 2017 that Modified and Reduced the Boundaries and Size of the Bears Ears**
17 **National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Under the**
18 **Authority of the Antiquities Act**
19

20 **Issue:** The President’s authority to act on December 4, 2017 under the Antiquities Act to modify
21 and reduce the boundaries and size of two national monuments in southern Utah, each over a
22 million acres in size, and to order a new management plan for the reduced monuments, done at
23 the behest of the state and counties wherein the national monuments are located.
24

25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the actions and
26 proclamations of the President on December 4, 2017 to modify and reduce the boundaries and
27 size of the Bears Ears National Monument, designated in 2016, and of the Grand Staircase-
28 Escalante National Monument, designated in 1996, under the authority of the Antiquities Act
29 that requires any reservation of land as part of a national monument be confined to the smallest
30 area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects of historic or scientific
31 interest to be protected, and to order the issuance of a new management plan for the reduced
32 monuments .
33

34 **July 15, 2018**

35 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
36

37 **Proposed Resolution on the Designation of White Sands National Monument as a National**
38 **Park**
39

40 **Issue:** Legislation was recently introduced to designate White Sands National Monument as a
41 national park without the affected county’s approval.
42

43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to consult
44 with and seek the approval of the affected county before designating White Sands National
45 Monument as a national park. If the affected county’s approval is given, then the affected county
46 should be fully involved in the drafting and development of any legislation to designate White
47 Sands National Monument as a national park, as well as any future management plan.

- 1 **July 15, 2018**
- 2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGE

Proposed Platform Change to Telecommunications and Technology: POLICIES AND PRACTICES; Broadband Deployment and Adoption Subsection; Supporting Local Control and Counties as Critical Broadband Deployment Partners

POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Under Subsection J. Broadband Deployment and Adoption:

NACo strongly supports legislation and administrative policies that help counties **rapidly expand public-private partnerships and to attract affordable, abundant, redundant and reliable high speed** broadband services **that meet or exceed federal broadband speed definitions** regardless of population or technology used. **NACo supports legislation and/or policy that achieves any of the following: streamlined federal ROW and permitting processes for structures on lands controlled by any federal agency; access to federally owned dark fiber for use by government or quasi-governmental organizations; location maps and open access to broadband infrastructure that deployed with public funds; creation of fair refusal of service process where the incumbent has the option to provide service at the same level as a new deployment serving a high cost or underserved area within 180 days or must get out of the way; development of fiber optic broadband infrastructure where public funds are used; and a minimum broadband speed requirement of 25Mbps down and 3Mbps up.** This **also** includes supporting legislation that provides tax credits to telecommunications providers that develop broadband in rural and underserved communities, and provides for broadened eligibility and additional federal agency loan authority or extension of credit to telecommunications providers that deploy broadband in rural communities.

In supporting expanded broadband service, **where minimum broadband speeds are achieved,** NACo shall maintain a neutral position on the differing technologies and policy initiatives promoted by the various elements of the communications industry that are seeking to obtain a competitive advantage in retaining or expanding market share. NACo believes all levels of government should work cooperatively with the private sector, nonprofits, and academia to develop robust awareness, adoption, and use programs for broadband.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution in Support of Empowering Counties to be Active in the Deployment and Operations of High Speed Internet

Issue: High Speed Internet is an essential element to modern commerce but local governments in many states are prohibited from being an active participant in the deployment of these services.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the removal of barriers to counties supplying infrastructure to the private sector, partnering with the private sector or operating Internet services as a public utility when no commercial service is available.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution of Support of the Recommendations of the Broadband Opportunity Council

Issue: The Broadband Opportunity Council studied ways to reduce barriers to broadband deployment created by Federal Regulations and is now in the implementation phase of the effort. It is important to America's counties that this implementation effort continue under the current administration.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the implementation of the report generated by the Broadband Opportunity Council (BOC). This report outlines ways to reduce federal regulatory barriers to the ongoing deployment of broadband capability throughout the nation. Additionally, we encourage the federal government to facilitate the use of publicly held infrastructure via lease and partnership arrangements with the private sector to increase the deployment of Broadband to underserved areas. This is especially important in relation to any additional federally funded build out required to meet FirstNet's Public Safety requirements.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Encouraging Congress to Undertake a Systemic Rewrite of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Issue: The Federal Telecommunications Act has not been updated by congress since 1996. Since that time, there have been substantial changes in not only the telecommunications technology in use but the also the manner it is used in daily life. The lack of congressional attention to this matter has placed an inordinate burden on the FCC to set policy that is better suited to our elected representatives.

Proposed Policy: NACo believes that the time has come for Congress to engage in a systemic rewrite of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We believe this action is necessary to realign the telecommunications policies of the United States to match current and developing Technologies.

1 Additionally, we believe that NACo can be a valuable resource during this process due to our
2 unique relationship with this issue. NACo and its members are not only critical users of these
3 telecommunications systems, elected representatives of the consumers of these systems,
4 facilitators of deployment of these systems but also in some states, regulators of these systems.
5

6 **July 15, 2018**

7 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
8

9 **Proposed Resolution Encouraging Congress to Pass Legislation that Would Ensure Local**
10 **911 Service Fees Are Only Used for Emergency Communications**
11

12 **Issue:** Funding for 911 comes for a variety of sources, including monthly fees that are set by the
13 state and paid on consumers' telephone bills. Yet this rate may vary by phone type within a state.
14 As consumers shift their telecommunications preferences from wired to wireless phones, some
15 states have seen a dramatic decrease in dedicated 911 funding as existing statutes have not been
16 updated to account for these shifts. Subsequently, it is not uncommon for the revenue from 911
17 fees to fall short of the cost of running a 911 call center, also known as a public safety answering
18 point (PSAP). Additionally, many states collect 911 fees and remit the revenues to local
19 governments. However, in 2015 over \$220 million in 911 fees were diverted by states throughout
20 the country for purposes other than maintaining and upgrading PSAPs. As counties receive less
21 in dedicated 911 revenue due to both states withholding funds and shifts in telecommunications
22 preferences they must turn to general fund money.
23

24 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the
25 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt legislation or take regulatory action that
26 ensures that fees collected for local 911 services are only used to repair, replace or improve
27 communications and security infrastructure technology at our nation's public safety answering
28 points or 911 call centers.
29

30 **July 15, 2018**

31 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
32

33 **Proposed Resolution Calling on the Federal Government to Actively Engage Counties**
34 **Prior to Developing 5G Wireless Infrastructure**
35

36 **Issue:** As Congress works on legislation to help grow our nation's wireless broadband
37 infrastructure it is imperative that the Federal Government engage local leaders to ensure that
38 new wireless infrastructure built on locally owned property is done so with the prior approval of
39 the governing jurisdiction, and does not preempt or limit local zoning authority.
40

41 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government
42 to work with local officials when drafting legislation that would impact the use of locally owned
43 land, including public rights-of-way, to build new wireless infrastructure including 5G networks.
44 NACo further urges Congress to oppose any legislative or regulatory proposals that would limit,
45 or preempt local zoning authority, or the ability of local governments to charge reasonable fees
46 for the use of locally owned land to build wireless infrastructure.

- 1 **July 15, 2018**
- 2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

TRANSPORTATION

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution in Support of Direct Funding to Local Governments for the Improvement and Maintenance of Local Roads in America within any Proposed Infrastructure Spending Bill

Issue: Include direct funding for roads owned and operated by local governments to address America's rapidly deteriorating transportation network and create jobs

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the president and Congress, through any proposed infrastructure spending bill, to create dedicated funding allocated directly to local governments for the improvement and maintenance of local road and bridge infrastructure in America.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Establish NACo's Legislative Position for United States Department of Transportation's Budget Appropriation for FY 2019

Issue: The nation's counties rely on a strong federal-state-local partnership to successfully meet the transportation and infrastructure needs of their constituents. This partnership has included the federal government providing, through the annual appropriations process, funding to assist the needs of local government.

Proposed Policy: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) annual appropriations for FY 2019 shall be maintained, at minimum, at the authorized FY 2018 level, and whenever possible, be increased to assist projects that support the economic output, mobility and safety of the American people.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on FAA Reauthorization or Extension

Issue: As counties own 34 percent of the nation's publicly-owned airports and spend \$4.5 billion annually on air transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization could have significant impacts on county governments, their budgets and the economic well-being of their communities.

Proposed Policy: As Congress considers legislation to reauthorize the FAA, the National Association of Counties (NACo) calls for provisions that would:

- Modernize the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) program by: increasing the cap to \$8.50 and indexing it to inflation so it can be automatically adjusted going forward; streamlining the application process; and eliminating program requirements that are applicable only to medium and large hub airports.
- Reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at the current funding levels. In exchange for raising the PFC cap to \$8.50, eliminate program entitlements (apportionments) for large hub airports and redirect the resulting savings to fund projects at small airports (airports designated as small hubs and smaller).
- Reauthorize the Federal Contract Tower and ensure that FAA does not change the requirements for participating in the program in a way that would close existing towers, prevent new towers or force local communities to pay onerous portions of the required program costs.
- Re-establish congressional intent and 30 years of federal interpretation that state and local sales tax measures of general application are not the same as aviation fuel excise tax and the states and localities should be able to use those revenues as they have determined based on state and local statute.
- NACo urges Congress to continue to fully fund the Essential Air Service (EAS) program that provides dollars to airlines that serve small communities. NACo also urges Congress to continue guaranteed funding of the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) that helps small communities address air service and airfare issues.
- NACo urges Congress to establish in the next Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization or extension of the current FAA authorization law, a pilot program within the FAA that, in consultation with airline operators and general aviation users, oversees the installation and operation of remote air traffic control towers.

July 15, 2018

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Federal Policy Makers to Include Support for Transit Options in any Upcoming Infrastructure Package and/or List of Expanded Legislative Principles

Issue: Counties and local jurisdictions desire transit options to reduce traffic congestion, spur economic development and job growth, and enhance regional connectivity and mobility.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide funding mechanisms in its upcoming infrastructure package, including incentives for private investment such as public-private partnerships, to state and local governments for purposes of expanding, installing, and maintaining transit systems; including but not limited to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Heavy Rail, and Light Rail systems.

1 **July 15, 2018**

2 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

3
4 **Proposed Resolution in Support of Eliminating Regulatory Impediments for Effective**
5 **Delivery of Federal Aid Projects**
6

7 **Issue:** Elimination of regulatory impediments to the effective delivery of federal aid projects
8

9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the president and
10 Congress to implement measures that would eliminate regulatory impediments on local and state
11 sponsored federal aid projects to achieve our shared goals of strengthening transportation
12 networks, improving public safety and advancing our economic competitiveness.
13

14 **July 15, 2018**

15 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

16
17 **Proposed Resolution Supporting Increased Consideration of Alternative Congestion**
18 **Mitigation Measures**
19

20 **Issue:** Federal funding for automated technologies has been focused mostly on the development
21 of driverless cars and shuttles which can enhance mobility and improve first/last-mile
22 accessibility, but have limited ability to reduce road congestion, and may increase vehicle miles
23 traveled before mitigation measures can be implemented.
24

25 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges U.S. Department of
26 Transportation (DOT) to make road congestion mitigation a top priority by exploring,
27 implementing and funding automated shuttles and transit network systems for congestion
28 mitigation that reduces the impact of driverless vehicles on road congestion and increases usage
29 of Automated Transit Networks (ATN) to relieve travel demand on roads.
30

31 **July 15, 2018**

32 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

33
34 **Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) and**
35 **Hours of Service Final Rule to Provide an Agricultural Exemption**
36

37 **Issue:** Federal regulation mandating the use of an electronic logging device for agricultural
38 transportation drivers does not take into account delays drivers will encounter in the process of
39 loading, unloading and transporting livestock, which could result in inhumane animal treatment,
40 devalued livestock pricing, and further economic hardship to rural counties across the United
41 States.
42

43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend
44 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Electronic Logging Devices and Hours of
45 Service final rule to exempt agricultural trucking activity from this regulation.
46

47 **July 15, 2018**

1 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

2
3 **Proposed Resolution in Support of Fully Funding Federally Mandated Local Airport**
4 **Security**
5

6 **Issue:** Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 44903(c) and 49 C.F.R. Part 1542, Airport operators are required
7 to establish an air transportation security program that provides a law enforcement presence and
8 capability at the airport that is adequate to ensure the safety of air passengers. This program is
9 part of the cooperative effort between Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and airports
10 to support deployment of sufficient law enforcement officers, by airports, to ensure passenger
11 safety and counter risks to transportation security. Local Airport Authorities are receiving
12 insufficient funding from the TSA to cover the cost of locally employed law enforcement
13 officers for airport security.
14

15 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase the
16 federal funding allocated for the TSA Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program so that the
17 maximum reimbursement rate may be increased to cover the local airport's actual cost of (non-
18 TSA) law enforcement officers employed by the local airport to fulfill federally mandated airport
19 security requirements.
20

21 **July 15, 2018**

22 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**
23

24 **Proposed Resolution on Indian School Bus Routes**
25

26 **Issue:** Poor maintenance of dirt school bus routes on Indian reservations prevents students
27 from getting to school and contributes to the Native American absentee rate that is four
28 times that of non-Native students.
29

30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association Counties (NACo) urges the improvement of dirt
31 school bus routes on Indian reservations through three key measures: 1) increasing annual
32 funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Road Maintenance Program (RMP); 2)
33 prioritizing additional RMP funds for dirt school bus routes on Indian reservations that are
34 persistently impassable; and 3) including counties in tribal roads meetings hosted by the BIA
35 and Office of Federal Lands Highway.
36

37 **July 15, 2018**

38 **Approved | NACo Board of Directors**