Proposed Policy Resolutions and Platform Changes

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

July 15, 2019
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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Change to Section III. Rural Infrastructure, Subsection B.
Transportation

III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

B. Transportation: Additionally, many counties have to close bridges when they become unsafe and cannot afford to rebuild them. The quality of roads and bridges is declining in many rural areas due to lack of funding. In particular, rural counties are increasingly in need of federal assistance for costly repairs and upgrades to farm-to-market roads – rural roads that primarily serve to transport agricultural products from a farm or ranch to the marketplace. Federal funding for rural roads, bridges, local transit service, and air service needs to increase substantially.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Change to Section III. Rural Infrastructure, Subsection A. Technology

III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Technology: Advanced telecommunications are critical to the economic vitality of rural America. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a lack of broadband infrastructure could limit the potential of rural communities to attract and retain businesses and jobs, especially businesses that are dependent on electronic commerce. The lack of broadband infrastructure in rural communities has severely impaired the potential of rural communities to attract and retain new businesses. Increased deployment of advanced technology has major implications for rural counties including improved healthcare services through telemedicine, long distance education, attraction of quality economic development, and improved wages and employment.

Many rural counties with broad-band service, however, may only have one provider compared to typically multiple providers in urban areas. Competition for broadband is especially important with regards to quality, costs and speeds of service. Having little or no choice in broadband providers can cause rural users to settle for inferior/no service.

Advanced technology is a major key to closing the information gap between rural and urban areas. NACo supports congressional and administrative action that hastens the deployment of high-speed broadband technology in rural America. This includes additional sustained funding for rural broadband deployment and support for 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 (EDA) grant program; and the Rural Infrastructure Program.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on H-2A Administrative Rules Reform

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on FY 2020 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Issue: Support FY 2020 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the FY 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill: no less than $3.8 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less than $1.5 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); $2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least $270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts; $40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and $500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

July 14, 2019
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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the New Markets Tax Credit

Issue: Support the permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program in order to promote community development and economic growth by attracting private investment in low-income communities with high unemployment and poverty.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide a permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) and other enhancements to the program to allow for private sector investment and economic growth in low-income communities.
July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Opportunity Zones

**Issue:** Support the issuance of guidance and regulations from the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) on the newly-created Opportunity Zones tax benefit that prevent abuse, encourage developments that provide public benefits, and protect local jurisdictions and stakeholders.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Treasury to provide guidance and regulations on the newly created Opportunity Zones tax benefit that prevent abuse, encourage developments that provide public benefits and protect local jurisdictions and stakeholders.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Preservation and Expansion of Affordable Housing Stock

**Issue:** There is need to preserve and expand the U.S. Affordable Housing Stock.

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

- The elimination of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) cap, which limits the number of public housing units eligible for conversion under the RAD program to 225,000. Elimination of this cap would promote access to the RAD program for more Public Housing Authorities...
(PHAs) nationwide and create a more favorable environment to fully maximize the opportunity to preserve and expand affordable housing.

- Increase the RAD Section 8 Project-Based rental subsidy to equal regular Section 8 Project-Based rental subsidies.

- Fully fund and expand the Public Housing Resident Self-Sufficiency Programs, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS), Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS), the Jobs Plus Initiative, and Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration programs funded by HUD that provide tools for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to promote access to opportunity for the families they serve.

- Adequately fund HUD’s mainline programs of Section 8 vouchers and public housing.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Economic Development Administration Reauthorization

Issue: Support appropriations and reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funding and reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) as follows:

- Provide at least $304 million in appropriations annually for EDA to support economic assistance programs.
- Focus on EDA’s core infrastructure and economic adjustment programs – public works, economic adjustment assistance and partnership planning. Congress should also authorize additional funding investments for special initiatives so as not to steer funding away from EDA core programs.
- Encourage regional collaboration by rewarding and incentivizing local governments, businesses and communities to participate in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process. The CEDS process brings together stakeholders to develop regional strategies and goals.
- Elevate EDA’s role as an integrator of federal economic development planning programs and formalize EDA’s role as the federal government’s lead integrator for economic development and central facilitator for interagency collaboration and resource integration.
- Expand EDA Disaster and Recovery Relief eligibility. EDA has a significant role to play in post-disaster relief and long-term recovery assistance for impacted communities. In areas where a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Stafford Act, EDA grant recipients should be eligible for up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.
- Strengthen EDA’s National Technical Assistance program for small and distressed rural communities to allow greater access and leveraging of federal, state, local and regional economic development programs.
Proposed Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce

Issue: The role legal immigration plays in our nation’s workforce and local economies.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that provide improved and efficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local economies and maintain the area standard industry wages for the local marketplace.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on FY 2020 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Issue: Support FY 2020 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 – U.S. 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 – U.S. 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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on Streamlining State Licensing Procedures for Military Spouses

**Issue:** The men and women who serve in uniform and their families experience hardships following a move when seeking employment due to licensing procedures.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Defense to implement the provisions of Public Law 115-91 to fully reimburse military spouses for costs they incur in transferring professional licenses and certifications from state to state. Further, counties should do all that they can to support the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in encouraging states to streamline the process for granting reciprocity for military spouses who must relocate from state to state in support of our men and women in uniform as they provide for the security of our nation.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Federal Support to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

**Issue:** Federal support to address increases in the number of unsheltered homeless persons and families should reflect current and anticipated need.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports increased federal support to address surges in the number of persons and families who are unsheltered and experiencing homelessness.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Housing Benefits

**Issue:** Immigrants’ use of federal housing benefits and the impact of proposed changes to eligibility for certain immigrant families and on county government costs.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes specific regulatory changes proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that would lead to increases in housing instability and homelessness for some immigrant families receiving federally subsidized housing and shift federal costs and administrative burdens to counties.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Supporting a Federal Study to Examine Lost Recording Fee Revenues
Due to the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS)

**Issue:** The Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS) has resulted in lost recording revenues fees for counties.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending federal law (12 U.S.C. § 4514a) to require the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to report annually to Congress on the amount of public recording fees not collected due to property transaction practices occurring through Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS).

*July 14, 2019*
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Leveraging the Combination of the Investing in Opportunity Act
and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Local Prosperity

**Issue:** The purpose of the Investing in Opportunity Act is to incentivize private investment in low-income census tracts. Yet, many believe that this legislation may not actually benefit the people living within Opportunity Zones and may instead cause greater regional inequality.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to amend the proposed Investing in Opportunity Act regulations to allow a business to qualify as an Opportunity Zone Business with 50 percent (as opposed to 70 percent) of its tangible property, owned or leased, meeting the requirements of Opportunity Zone Business Property, so long as said business also employs a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program (to be certified by the business’ local American Job Center on the IRS Form 8996).

*July 14, 2019*
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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

Issue: Addressing the potential human health and environmental threat caused by per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs

Issue: Ensuring that mitigation programs occur in the watershed or region where the impact occurred.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports and urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with local officials, to give preference and to use in-lieu fees for compensatory mitigation in the local watershed where the fee was collected for the mitigation project.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Provide Funding for Local Efforts to Address Coastal Water Level Changes

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 coastal water level changes and increased storm surge related initiatives and projects that aim to develop adaptive solutions to these potentially devastating events.

July 14, 2019
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 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on EPA’s Imposition of Numeric Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations on County Governments

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

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

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Invest in Transboundary Water and Sewage Infrastructure Along United States/International Borders

**Issue:** Sufficient to construct water and sewage infrastructure improvements along U.S./international borders.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to authorize and appropriate funding for projects identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other appropriate federal agencies, that would address transboundary sewage or contaminated water flows that occur along United States/international borders.

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution to Revise the Process to Assess Benefits of Federally Funded Water Infrastructure Projects

Issue: The process for conducting cost-benefit analyses for flood control projects does not properly acknowledge the value of agricultural land or socio-economic factors.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to add a quantitative indexed value to life-safety, agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding, protection of low-income communities and environmental benefits to determine the benefit of federal investments in flood control projects.

Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize the Army Corps to implement the 2013 Principles, Requirements and Guidelines to allow rural communities to fairly compete for federal funding by considering non-population-based criteria for water projects.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Federal Government Related Water Control Infrastructure Drawdowns Before Flooding Events

Issue: A resolution urging federal agencies to enact operating procedures consistent with its mission and design to reduce downstream flooding from imminent stormwater events.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to revise federal guidelines in coordination with local governing authorities that operate water control projects to reduce downstream stormwater events.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention and Mitigation

Issue: Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) are some of the most scientifically complex and economically damaging issues challenging our ability to safeguard the health of our nation’s aquatic ecosystems. Almost every state in the U.S. now experiences some kind of HAB event and the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has increased 30-fold since the 1960s with over 300 aquatic life systems now impacted.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with other federal agencies to identify nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.
July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act

**Issue:** Coral reefs in Florida and throughout the United States and its territories are critically threatened due to increasing global and local stressors. In particular, the Florida Reef Tract, North America’s only coral barrier reef, is currently facing an unprecedented coral disease outbreak.

**Proposed Policy:** NACo supports reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000. Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize and appropriate additional annual funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation’s coral reefs.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Requesting the U.S. Department of Energy Rescind or Revise Order 140.1 to Remove Restrictions on the Department of Energy’s Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

**Issue:** Rule change at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) impacts Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board’s (DNFSB) ability to protect workers and public health and safety.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports regulatory and/or legislative efforts to rescind or substantially revise the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Order 140.1 to clarify the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board’s (DNSFB) full authority to protect health and safety of the public and workers with full access to DOE facilities and information, as directed by law and statute.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on any Administration Budget Request to Eliminate Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) Revenue Sharing Funds

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

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges that Congress oppose any future administration budget request to eliminate Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) revenue sharing with eligible states, counties, and parishes in order to redirect the funds to the U.S. Treasury.

July 14, 2019
Proposed Resolution in Support of Liquid Natural Gas Export Facilities Nationally

Issue: Increasing liquid natural gas (LNG) infrastructure nationally will help stabilize the economic impacts in communities of impact; greater utilization of LNG as a source of domestic and international energy has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint and decrease air quality impacts; and exporting LNG to countries politically aligned with the United States increases global security.

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

July 14, 2019

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to the Sales and Use Taxes Section

SALES AND USE TAXES

NACo encourages support for efforts to reduce the complexity of state and local sales and use tax laws, and urges Congress to pass legislation codifying the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. NACo also supports granting counties with the authority to enforce the collection of already existing sales and use taxes from remote sellers.

Should Congress consider legislation related to the collection of remote sales taxes, the legislation should:

- Establish a definition of what constitutes a reasonable “nexus” between a state or locality and a vendor;
- Establish a consistent definition of “small business” and the small business exemption;
- Utilize a destination-based taxing system for online and remote sales;
- Support and consider codifying the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement;
- Ensure local sales taxes are included in collection and distribution methods; and
- These efforts, however, should not be used by the federal government as a means to undermine county government taxing authority and revenue streams.

July 14, 2019

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Changes to Sections: Elections; Election Funding; Election Security; and Discounted Postage Rate

ELECTIONS

Counties administer the nation’s elections and must be an integral stakeholder in any meaningful reform of our election process. Counties have traditionally administered and financed elections in the United States because the vast differences in geographic and population sizes, language needs and other local requirements necessitate differences in elections administration. This local and disparate election administration also assists in elections security. Therefore, NACo opposes any legislation that imposes specific and impractical requirements regarding equipment, procedures, and personnel responsibilities, under the guise of federal election reform when said regulations directly impact the conduct of state and local elections. Further, while NACo believes that post-election audits are an integral part of securing our elections and supports efforts to develop and assist counties in implementing best practices, NACo opposes any legislation that requires any specific
methodologies. NACo Counties additionally opposes unfunded mandates and insufficient
deadlines with regard to federal election reform. Counties administer the nation’s elections and
should be included in any meaningful reform of our election process. NACo Counties further
asserts that counties should not be held liable for state failures to comply with election
requirements imposed by the federal government.

NACo strongly supports the role and functions of an the U.S. Election Assistance Commission
(EAC) that which recognizes and focuses on the importance of rigorous testing of voting
equipment and brings together election technology experts and local election officials to
develop guidelines and standards that protect our critical infrastructure and appreciates
the efficiencies and cost savings of voluntary federal certification. NACo supports this process
and opposes any legislation that seeks to create further federal certification processes in
addition to the EAC certification. Further, 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.

ELECTION FUNDING

Counties support a consistent, predictable and dedicated federal funding stream to assist
counties with meeting the significant federal requirements already imposed on local
governments administering elections. Federal funding dedicated to election administration
should be administered in coordination and in consultation with local governments,
including an assurance that a portion of the funding be made available to the discretion of
local governments. A consistent federal funding stream would allow counties to prepare for
future technology and security updates, as well as to provide continued access to voters that
have challenges as required by existing federal laws such as the Voting Rights Act and
Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Additionally, any new
federal legislation or regulations on local election administration must be fully funded and
should acknowledge the substantial variety of administration techniques employed in states
and counties across the country.

ELECTION SECURITY

Counties believe secure elections are a central component of our nation. NACo supports
efforts by Congress to combat the cybersecurity threats that are already negatively
impacting public perception of the integrity of elections. Any legislation should involve
county election authorities in addressing these threats and include provisions requiring
information sharing between federal, state and local authorities.

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 when enacting election cybersecurity legislation:

- Increase the availability to local governments of interim election preparedness grants and the accessibility of these grants to counties, with criteria based on security principles rather than specific technologies;
- Authorize a separate and sustainable allocation of funds for local governments;
- Utilize advisory panels already in existence, such as the EAC, Government Coordinating Council, or Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC), or otherwise give significant representation to local authorities (including local government Chief Information Officers) on any new advisory panel on election cybersecurity;
- Maximize flexibility and opportunities for nimble, innovative and secure tabulation auditing protocols;
- Provide county election officials, government Chief Information Officers and other county technology offices with maximum information about cyber threats; and
- Avoid inclusion of a “hack the election” program, or else place it under the EAC.

DISCOUNTED POSTAGE RATE THE POSTAL SYSTEM IS A PARTNER IN ELECTIONS
NACo supports a domestic and international mail system that supports our election system and ensures that all voters, including those in the military and overseas, are able to fairly and freely participate in our elections. Such a system would include high quality delivery methods, tracking and notice of changes in the system to impacted local governments.

NACo also supports the establishment of a discounted Presort First-Class postage rate, similar to that enjoyed by federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, for specified local government mailings mandated by federal or state law, such as voter registrations, election ballot mailings, property tax statements, summonses, and jury duty pay.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution Supporting a Complete and Accurate Census 2020 Count

**Issue:** Supporting a complete and accurate Census 2020 Count.

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

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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

**Issue:** Resolution to oppose the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) 40 percent excise tax on high-cost and employer-provided health benefits.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes the taxation of health insurance benefits to county employees through the application of the ACA excise tax on health insurance benefits for county employees, the capping of the tax exclusion for employer-based defined contributions made by counties and/or any new taxes which would apply to the health benefits that counties provide to their employees. NACo supports the passage of H.R.748/S.684, the “Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019,” which would repeal the excise tax.

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Municipal Advisor Rule

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

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

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution to Preserve Municipal Investment Options and Access to Capital for Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

**Issue**: Recent Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules altering money market funds and reducing access to capital markets used to finance infrastructure development projects.

**Proposed Policy**: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to preserve communities’ access to capital and promote economic development by expressly permitting any money market fund with the choice to operate on a stable net asset value (NAV) basis if it adheres to certain requirements and restrictions. Such legislation should not have any impact on the other changes to the regulation of money market funds that were adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2010 and 2014.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Restoring Tax Incentives for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems

**Issue**: Fire sprinklers and other interior building improvements no longer meet certain expensing and depreciation qualifications.

**Proposed Policy**: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to correct an unintentional drafting error in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA; P.L. 115-97) to allow qualified improvement properties (QIPs) to be eligible for bonus and accelerated depreciation as intended by the TCJA.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support for 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 support the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act of 2019 (VRIPA), which would waive federal income taxes on nominal recruitment and retention incentives provided by local jurisdictions to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on 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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Volunteer Driver Reimbursement Rates

Issue: Ensuring mileage reimbursement rates for volunteer drivers for counties.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact H.R. 2072, the Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2019, to ensure equal mileage reimbursement between the charitable and business mileage rates.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congressional and Administration Commitment to Timely Enactment of Federal Budget Appropriations and No More Shutdowns

Issue: The purpose of this resolution is to urge Congress and the President to work together to enact all federal budget appropriations bills by October 1 of each new fiscal year, thereby avoiding continuing resolutions and government shutdowns, which create costly delays and uncertainty in providing federal assistance and programs for U.S. counties and their residents.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the President to commit to working together to get agreement on all spending legislation by October 1 of each year. This is a fundamental responsibility of both Congress and the President and should be taken more seriously. Counties work hard to get their budgets approved on a timely basis and Congress should do the same. Our citizens deserve no less.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
HEALTH

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Extend Federal Medical 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 federal legislation 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 14, 2019
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.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Care in Treatment Centers

Issue: Although substance use disorders such as opioid addiction frequently follows the onset of depression, and substance use disorders such as 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, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to modify grant, technical assistance and service funding programs that support the development and operation of integrated care in treatment centers to include provision for the integration of mental health and addiction care, including care for depression and substance use disorders such as opioid addiction.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the Importance of the ACA and Medicaid Expansion

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Regarding the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program

**Issue:** County jails are not eligible for designation as health professional shortage areas for the 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.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Support Funding for Alzheimer’s Disease/Other Related Dementias Research, Community Education and Outreach and Caregiver Support

**Issue:** Lack of sufficient funding for Alzheimer’s Disease research/other related dementias, Alzheimer’s community education and outreach, and resources for caregivers, family members and individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease/other related dementias.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Benefits

**Issue:** Changes to existing immigration policy that limits eligibility for federally funded health care and public health programs could negatively impact county governments.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Supporting Local Efforts for Mobile Support Teams

**Issue:** There is more support needed at the federal level for local health departments’ mobile support teams, who work closely with law enforcement agencies to promote safety and emotional stability when a behavioral crisis occurs.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts at the federal and state levels to fully fund and promote mobile support teams within a local health department or local jurisdiction. NACo urges federal and state matching funds to maximize financial support for local jurisdictions in implementing mobile support teams.

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Reducing Disparities in African American Child Deaths

**Issue:** African American children die at disproportionate rates across the United States, impacting families and communities.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislative efforts to fund local initiatives to reduce African American child deaths through collective impact models and targeted, community-based programs to reduce risks.

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support for Funding the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Grants

**Issue:** Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund their EMS operations. In December 2018, Congress passed the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN Act), as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), which restored and revised a grant program for rural EMS agencies. While the SIREN grants have been authorized, Congress must provide strong appropriations for this program.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fund the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN) grants at $20 million for FY 2020. The SIREN grants will provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to recruit personnel, procure emergency medical supplies and provide emergency medical services (EMS) training classes. Only public and nonprofit agencies are eligible to receive these funds.

*July 14, 2019*

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Supporting Improved Compliance through Better Regulation in Nursing Homes

Issue: Better regulation is needed to support compliance, while ensuring unnecessary regulatory burdens do not take precedence over care, treatment, and outcomes.

Proposed Policy: NACo supports strengthening efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve compliance through collaborative efforts with healthcare providers and stakeholders to reduce administrative burdens, increase effective and efficient conformity with regulations and improve the beneficiary experience by removing regulatory obstacles that diminish the ability to put patients/residents first over paperwork.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Better Staffing in Nursing Homes

Issue: Nursing homes need adequate staffing levels to provide high quality care, safe care, person-directed care, and care that is consistent with state and federal regulations.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend federal law to allow disapproval for nurse aide training programs to be discretionary rather than mandatory and support the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Support Federal Action to Obtain Better Research on Kratom and to Promote Dissemination of Best Public Health Practices Related to Kratom

Issue: Local communities need better data and research related to kratom that will aide the development of public health best practices related to the use of kratom in communities across the United States.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) should urge Congress to pass legislation and/or federal agency directives to fund and support efforts to research the health impacts related to the use of kratom. This includes federal action steps to devote the appropriate agency and staff resources to complete both: (1) a review of existing research on kratom in order to provide counties and other local government jurisdictions with immediate guidance on the most appropriate public health best practices related to kratom; and (2) to pursue more comprehensive research on kratom that can inform longer-term public health approaches related to the use of kratom.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution to Support Amending 42 CFR Part 2 SUD Privacy Rules to Improve Care Coordination

Issue: Need to align privacy requirements for substance use disorder (SUD) patient records with those for medical care records under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) in order to improve care coordination for patients undergoing SUD treatment.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 (Part 2) privacy provisions to improve care coordination for patients undergoing treatment for SUD by aligning the privacy requirements for SUD patient records as governed by Part 2 with those in HIPAA for medical care. This would permit information sharing between SUD treatment providers, behavioral health providers and medical care providers for the purposes of health care treatment, payment, and operations (TPO), while also bolstering efforts to identify high utilizers of public services and hospital emergency departments.

July 14, 2019

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution to Support Linking 2-1-1 Lines with Substance Use Disorder Crisis Lines

**Issue:** 2-1-1 lines are not linked to substance use disorder crisis lines, requiring 2-1-1 to refer callers to a separate crisis line.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative proposals that appropriate funding to link 2-1-1 lines with substance use disorder crisis lines.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress and the Administration to Maintain County Child Welfare Flexibility and Funding

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

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide administrative flexibility in the Family First Prevention Services Act (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 HHS mitigate 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 14, 2019**
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.

**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 Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) metrics may not be the best benchmarks to determine programmatic success.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Minimize the Negative Impacts of Immigration Enforcement on Families and Children

**Issue:** The need to carry out enforcement of immigration law in a matter that does not increase reliance on local social safety-net services or increase administrative costs for counties.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to carry out its enforcement of immigration law in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on families and children and does not increase reliance on local social safety-net services or create new demands and administrative costs for counties.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution to Maintain Current Levels of Legal Migration

Issue: The health of our economy and communities and our economic growth as counties depends on a robust legal immigration system.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative or regulatory proposals that at least maintain current statutory legal immigration levels and opposes any efforts that would significantly reduce legal immigration to the United States.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on Early Childhood Development

Issue: Increase funding for early childhood development programs and services.

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 14, 2019
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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
**Proposed Resolution to Enact the American Dream and Promise Act or Similar Legislation**

**Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) should support the American Dream and Promise Act or similar legislation.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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**Proposed Resolution to Address Sexual Abuse in Families**

**Issue:** A need for additional 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) Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) Children’s Bureau to support 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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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**Proposed Resolution to Support the Development of Pilot Programs for Innovative Delivery of Federal Social Services Programs that Are Offered through Local Governments**

**Issue:** Local governments are responsible for delivering several federal health and human services programs. These crucial social services programs help low-income families buy food, afford utility payments, and provide job training opportunities. Local governments have separate offices spread across cities and counties to deliver specific federal programs. This decentralized system is oftentimes inefficient and overly complicated, leading to lower program enrollment and less support for vulnerable populations.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to support legislative and regulatory efforts that would provide additional resources to create, support the development of, and fund pilot/demonstration programs for innovative delivery of federal social services and workforce training programs that are offered through local governments. Further, NACo urges that this funding would go directly to local governments, which are responsible for operating programs that increase the efficiency of delivery of federal social services programs through the use and adaption of technology and centralized community resource centers, which allow for citizens to apply for several federal social services in a single
location, reducing the burden on the constituents and ensuring cost effective allocation of federal resources.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

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

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to appropriate funding that fully reimburses states, counties and cities for the costs of housing criminal aliens.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Conduct an Assessment and Develop an Improvement Plan on FEMA Individual Assistance Programs

Issue: Citizens, businesses and governments impacted by disasters should be afforded a simple process, clear guidelines and timely assistance to recover from a disaster.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a study on FEMA’s Individual Assistance programs to measure the simplicity, clarity and expediency of applying for assistance and take appropriate actions to refine the programs based on results.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Clarify FEMA Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Roadways and Gated Communities

Issue: Citizens, businesses and governments that are located on private roads or within private gated communities and are impacted by disasters should be provided a simple process, clear guidelines and timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to clarify FEMA’s debris removal reimbursement guidelines for private roadways and gated communities to simplify and expedite the process.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Coordinate with Local Government Stakeholders on FEMA After-Action Reports

**Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments that are impacted by disasters should be provided a simple process, clear guidelines and timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate with local government stakeholders and residents on FEMA After-Action Reports.

**July 14, 2019**
**Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

Proposed Resolution in Support for Deflection Initiatives

**Issue:** Communities across the country are facing a behavioral health crisis related to substance abuse and mental health. To provide resources needed to combat the devastating impacts of the crisis, law enforcement agencies are implementing deflection programs. These innovative programs are intended to divert non-violent individuals experiencing addiction, substance use and mental health disorders from jails into community treatment programs while protecting public safety and connecting individuals directly to needed services.

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

**July 14, 2019**
**Approved | NACo Board of Directors**

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

**Issue:** Consolidation or elimination of existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management grants, particularly if these grants are moved to administration 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 Congress to preserve, maintain, and
enhance 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,
infrastructure and economic drivers of these areas and the fact that the populations of large urban
counties and cities are often least able to financially address these risks without federal assistance.
The UASI program should remain jointly administered by the State Administrative Agency and
the existing UASI organizational units and continue to require that no less than 80 percent of these
funds be passed through to the Urban Areas. NACo will work with Congress and the other
stakeholders to prepare updated legislative language to accomplish these goals and to address
realistic risk parameters in addition to core urban areas.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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

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

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

In the aftermath of changes to FEMA leadership, NACo believes that it is critically important that
the agency continue to involve local government in the development and implementation of policy
and procedures to implement strategic goals, and to enact such procedures that will clarify and
simplify the local role in national emergency management.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary
of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the

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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. NACo also urges Congress
to ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute
appropriate emergency management activities in the counties.

July 14, 2019
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.
In 2018, the House recommended a one-time increase to the EMPG.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the Implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)

Issue: On October 5, 2018, President Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018 into law as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018. These reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility for disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and build the nation’s capacity for the next catastrophic event.

The law contains approximately 50 provisions that require FEMA policy or regulation changes for full implementation, as they amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It touches multiple funding programs and responsible federal agencies but includes major changes to processes and grant funding managed primarily by FEMA. Through the DRRA, Congress provides greater flexibility for applicants to build what they need rather than simply restore or replace what was damaged. It also mandates financial support for greater resiliency in rebuilding and mitigation and aims to improve expediency of the project process and dispute resolution.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the continuing development, analysis and final implementation of the DRRA. NACo also urges that Congress ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute appropriate emergency management activities in the counties as a result of any new polices or procedures required due to DRRA changes implemented by FEMA.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Reduce Unnecessary Burdens on Public Assistance to Counties Following Presidential Declarations

Issue: Following approval of post-disaster recovery projects, FEMA’s inconsistent processes, personnel and exceptionally burdensome paperwork result in unreasonable delays in reimbursement of Public Assistance costs.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA follows through on its stated strategic goal to reduce the complexity of FEMA, particularly in the case of Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement.

Specifically, NACo asks that Congress requires FEMA to:
- Address bureaucratic obstacles in the PA process;
- Reduce the complexity of compliance requirements and processes in the PA process;
- Eliminate inconsistent guidance, training, experience and accountability for FEMA field operations and staff assigned to Public Assistance and other roles;
- Streamline the oversight of disasters by adhering to their stated intent to realign FEMA so that disasters are “federally supported, state managed and locally executed.”
July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Support National Standards for Emergency Management Programs and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors


Issue: A resolution urging the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B), to include recommendations from Local agencies exercising administration over flood control in the issuing of licenses for waterpower and resources.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B) as follows: (B) The recommendations of federal, state and local agencies exercising administration over flood control, navigation, irrigation, recreation, cultural and other relevant resources of the state in which the project is located, and the recommendations (including fish and wildlife recommendations) of Indian tribes affected by the project.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Program Improvements

**Issue:** Including 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 for the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program that:

- Provides long-term reauthorization with a focus on affordability, efficiency, fairness, accountability and sustainability of the program.
- Invests in mitigation, reforms the administration and claims processes, and bolsters NFIP solvency.
- Modernizes flood mapping and flood risk accuracy.
- Increases accountability and consumer protections in the NFIP and private markets.

Specifically:

- **Affordability** – Limit rate increases to no more than five percent per year on any policy, inclusive of any surcharges and fees, especially given potential rate increases due to FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 initiative. Preserve grandfathering. Place a hard cap on annual premiums of one percent of the total coverage of the property. Rates should be maintained as affordable for all policy holders.
- **Mitigation** – Increase federal investment in property and community mitigation, not only through loans, however; provide mitigation credits to residential property owners for proven flood proofing methods, beyond elevation; oppose unfunded mandates on local governments for mitigation efforts; modernize Increased Cost of Compliance to encourage mitigation.
- **Mapping** – Improve transparency, use the most effective technology, and include input from local governments; develop a method to pay for elevation certificates.
- **Solvency** – Further address repetitive loss properties; limit NFIP payments to Write Your Own (WYO) companies; increase the pool of policyholders through enforcement and expansion of the preferred risk policy; forgive the NFIP debt and reallocate interest payments to mitigation and solvency.
- **Consumer Protection** – Create a policy review process; regionalize Flood Insurance Advocates; amend force-placing provisions to keep policyholders in NFIP instead of a surplus line.
- **Privatization** – Require private insurers to cover the entire spectrum of risk (i.e. no cherry-picking of preferable policies); allow consumers that leave NFIP for the private market to re-enter NFIP; ensure private insurance market development does not undermine community flood mitigation through the Community Rating System.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution to Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal Immigration Laws

Issue: Maintain local control and flexibility under federal immigration laws.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the autonomy of counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of public safety priorities under federal immigration laws.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
PUBLIC LANDS

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes to the Public Lands Policy Section

STATEMENT OF BASIC PHILOSOPHY
Public lands are a defining feature of the United States, particularly in the West. NACo, its Western Interstate Region, state associations of counties, and individual county governments have a critical role in policy development, planning, and management of federal land through the coordination process mandated by federal law (16 U.S.C. 1604 (a) and 43 U.S.C. 1712 (b)). Counties serve as conveners and can offer a local, detailed level of expertise on resource management issues that is beneficial to all levels of government and helps to achieve mutual goals.

The federal government has long recognized and accepted that federal land holdings are a burden on local governments, and that funding is necessary for local governments to provide the types of services needed to access and use those lands. NACo believes that fair, equitable payments to counties, including revenue sharing from all forms of economic production, are necessary for federal agencies to meet their obligations as land managers.

NACo believes that environmental and socioeconomic values must be balanced through a philosophy of multiple use management that allows diverse activities on public lands to support local economies. Federal agencies must coordinate their management of public lands to ensure they are consistent with local land use or natural resource management plans to the fullest extent required by law. Federal agencies must also treat counties as governing partners and co-regulators.

FEDERAL LANDS PAYMENTS

A. Payments to Federal Lands Counties: All federal lands are tax-exempt, but still require local government services. NACo supports program(s), including full-funding of the Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, that compensate counties for these tax-exempt lands on a basis that is equitable to both the federal and local taxpayer that are non-discriminatory in nature. NACo supports the creation of a similar program to compensate counties with tax-exempt military lands. All payments to public lands counties should not be sequestered by the federal government, nor should they be delayed, reduced or otherwise negatively affected by any federal shutdown activity.

B. Resource Revenue Sharing Payments: NACo recognizes that natural resource extraction can impact local infrastructure and increase demand for services in surrounding counties. Therefore, NACo supports additional payments over and above other payments to local governments based on the revenue generated from the natural resource use and extraction within those counties' jurisdiction. Such payments shall not be subject to sequestration and the federal government should release any previously sequestered natural resource revenue sharing payments.
NACo supports amending the Federal Mineral Leasing Act so that an additional five percent from the federal portion (50 percent) of mineral lease revenue is returned to the county in which the mineral was extracted, and the historic balance of the 50/50 split is restored.

NACo supports the sharing of federal leasing and rights-of-way revenues from renewable energy development, forest stewardship contracts on federal lands and Good Neighbor Agreements (GNAs) with county governments where those developments and contracts occur. Any revenue sharing program should not negatively impact the PILT program. Receipts sharing for forest stewardship contracts and GNAs should be based on the total merchantable value of the products, rather than merely the net in excess of the contract amount.

C. Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act: NACo supports federal stopgap payments to counties facing lower federal resource revenue sharing payments due to substantially decreased activity in natural resource use, harvest, and extraction as a result of federal regulations that have restricted or prohibited the use, harvest, and extraction of the resource. NACo supports the reauthorization and enhancement of the Secure Rural Schools program (PL 110-343). Reauthorization should maintain coupling between payments to counties and active natural resource management, and the connection between sustainable natural resource management and the stability and well-being of forest counties and communities.

NACo urges Congress and federal agencies to restore responsible, multiple use and sustained-yield industries on public land. These industries are necessary to provide economic, social, educational, and cultural stability for resource communities. NACo supports robust bridge funding to arrest catastrophic declines in resource production and county revenue sharing and a restoration of active public land management.

D. Compensation to Counties by Businesses Operating on Federal Lands: NACo supports additional payments to counties for any fees generated from any businesses—such as concessionaires or enhanced-use lessees—who operate on federally owned land to compensate local taxing jurisdictions equal to the property taxes that are otherwise paid by any other commercial business in the county.

FEDERAL LAND USE PLANNING
A. Current and Future Federal Land Management Agency Land Management Plan Revisions: Federal land management agencies shall coordinate with local government officials and maintain maximum consistency with local plans and policies when conducting current and future revisions of Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Forest Management Plans. Counties should utilize the coordination process and/or serve as cooperating agencies in the NEPA process as counties see fit and be provided meaningful opportunities for involvement in the revision process from start to finish. Once land management agency plans become approved management practices or policies, new agency actions should not contradict those plans. Plans should provide for economic and social sustainability, emphasize multiple use management and commodity production and require that federal decisions be made at the most local level of the federal agency.
B. **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Improvement:** NACo supports the revision of NEPA to strengthen the involvement of local governments in the federal decision-making process, expedite project analysis and make final decisions in a timely but effective manner. NACo supports requiring federal agencies to coordinate with local governments, offer cooperating agency status and negotiate mutually agreeable memoranda of understanding (MOU). NACo encourages increased opportunities for involvement of the public during the legally mandated public comment process, including opportunities for verbal input during town halls, hearings and listening sessions within or in close proximity to the impacted communities and, when possible, increased time to provide written input and testimony.

C. **Endangered Species Act:** NACo recognizes the importance of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as an essential safeguard for America’s fish, wildlife and plants, and therefore supports updating and improving it to better achieve its goals. NACo supports the delisting of species when recovery goals are met.

NACo supports reforming the ESA to mandate that the federal government treat state and county governments as equals through government-to-government coordination to decide jointly with appropriate federal agencies when and how to list species, designate habitat and plan and manage for species recovery and delisting.

NACo supports reforms that would require federal agencies to perform cumulative and quantitative economic analyses before the designation of critical habitat that would measure the effects of such a designation on all affected local governments and local stakeholders, including the effects on possible uses of land, property values, employment and revenues available for state and local governments. This information shall be considered as a part of their decision-making process.

D. **Gateway Communities:** NACo recognizes counties as gateway communities to our nation’s federal lands and that the economies and ecologies of county, state, and federal governments in gateway regions are interwoven. NACo believes that diverse recreation and tourism opportunities are critical to counties and their communities. Furthermore, NACo recognizes that federal policies frequently drive significant impacts to gateway communities and the services they provide to visitors to ensure their pleasure, safety and comfort.

Federal government shutdowns have an enormously negative impact on counties and gateway communities. NACo urges land management agencies to partner with state and local government to keep these facilities open and adequately staffed during federal government shutdowns. Local and state governments that temporarily open and staff these facilities should also have the opportunity for reimbursement by federal lands agencies.

**FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT**

A. **Transfer of Public Lands:** NACo believes all fifty states are equal and that every state should receive everything that was promised to them in their enabling acts, including land transfers, if requested by an individual state and in consultation with the affected counties.

B. **Public Land Acquisition and Ownership:** Acquisition or disposal of new land, conservation easements and water rights by any federal agency should be subject to coordination with the
county in which the land is located, and consistent with local land use or natural resource plans. Counties should be given the opportunity to participate in the development of terms and conditions of any such proposal before it is carried out. Criteria for the transfer, sale or acquisition of public lands and conservation easements shall include consideration of fair market value, loss of tax base, coordination with appropriate counties and other governing jurisdictions, preparation of appropriate environmental analyses and public values. Lands acquired by the federal government shall be considered entitlement lands and subject to Payments In-Lieu of Taxes compensation to the impacted local government. Additionally, NACo requests that federal land management agencies adopt policies that provide real and substantial consideration of historic uses in project plans and environmental documentation and commit project developers to providing mitigation for their loss.

C. Special Use Designations: Special federal land use designations impact the long-term use and status of public lands, which in turn has significant impacts on neighboring counties. The federal government shall coordinate with affected state and local government as early as possible when considering special land use designations. NACo supports those special use designations of federal lands that are approved by county governments and supported by stakeholders in the area in which the designations are proposed and are consistent with existing resource management plans. There must be compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including open public comment sessions in the impacted counties. Adding private lands to wilderness and other special designation areas shall require congressional approval.

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 natural resource management plans should be required to the maximum extent allowed by law.

NACo opposes efforts to require inventoried roadless areas to be managed in accordance with the US Forest Service Roadless Area Rule issued in January of 2001. NACo supports petitions of individual states to amend the Roadless Area Rule to allow state-specific management guidelines for inventoried roadless areas in that given state.

NACo opposes policy and management decisions (such as Wilderness Study Area creation) that allow federal agencies to manage public lands for long, undefined periods of time as wilderness without congressional designations and with restrictions on the use of private lands in the proximity to a Wilderness Study Area.

D. Access: For public lands counties and gateway communities, access is a central issue. NACo supports retaining and enhancing public access to public lands for public safety, forest and ecosystem health, recreation and tourism, resource extraction, research and education, and private property rights. Roads are the primary infrastructure for access to public lands, and public lands road systems must be retained and maintained. NACo opposes road closures, road decommissioning,
moratoria against road building and other limiting policies and practices without coordination and consistency with county natural resource plans or management policies.

NACo recognizes the importance of the system of historic roads, trails and other rights-of-way across federal lands established under R.S. 2477. NACo supports legislative efforts to create a clear, consistent administrative process coordinated with local government plans for confirming historic rights-of-way on federal lands for qualifying roads, including but not limited to a waiver of the statute of limitations regarding timely filing of such applications where qualifying roads cross “reserved” land. The Administration should work cooperatively with local officials to obtain administrative, judicial, and legislative recognition of county R.S. 2477 rights-of-way claims on federal land. NACo opposes any federal action designed to change or diminish the scope of these rights and supports shifting the burden of proof for R.S. 2477 rights-of-way closures to the federal government to justify such action.

E. Water: NACo believes in state primacy in water resources administration, management and allocation. Before any decision is made to continue drawdowns, removal or breaching of dams, a full review of all the relevant scientific and socioeconomic implications of such actions should be made and coordinated with affected counties. Water supplies for millions of individual Americans and agricultural producers begin on federal lands, and land management policy should prioritize, protect and uphold watershed health and water yield. Water rights holders must be given access for maintenance and control of water structures located on public lands.

NACo supports changes in current federal policy to allow the use of mechanized equipment for maintenance of dams within designated Wilderness areas and Wilderness Study Areas.

NACo urges the U.S. government to acknowledge the importance of adopting definitive Arctic policies in order to protect national security and to further U.S. commerce.

F. Domestic Livestock Grazing: Domestic livestock grazing on public lands is essential to local economies and is often an activity of cultural and historic significance. Livestock grazing is also an important method for the management of the landscape for public safety. NACo supports the enhancement of a viable rangeland livestock industry. Grazing is an excellent tool for the reduction of fire fuels, control of some noxious weeds, and other, less noticeable benefits such as hoof action allowing for better native seed to soil contact.

NACo supports the development and implementation of alternative grazing allotment management procedures, including categorical exclusions for “no change of use permit” renewals on transfers, to streamline the process and reduce costs to the taxpayer associated with rangeland management decisions.

NACo expresses disapproval of civil actions to diminish public lands livestock grazing rights brought against industry and federal land management agencies when final decisions are made by the appropriate federal agencies after cooperative efforts to determine best land-use practices.
NACo opposes legislative efforts to allow for the permanent retirement of grazing permits through the buyout of grazing permits by non-ranching third parties. If a permit is vacated, NACo supports reissuing the permit to an active grazer only.

G. Wild Horse and Burro Management: Wild horse and burro management on public lands is an increasingly urgent environmental crisis resulting in inhumane conditions for wild horses and burros that must be addressed through balanced, science-based decision-making and reproductive management practices.

NACo urges support for federal land agencies in the management of wild horse and burro populations to achieve appropriate management levels (AML) as authorized by federal law. Further, NACo supports the sale, adoption or humane slaughter of excess animals and the funding and utilization of sterilization technology and methods proven to be effective in controlling herd sizes.

NACo supports legislation to give individual states exclusive authority to manage wild horses and burros on federal lands, including exclusive authority to determine appropriate AMLs and authority to dispose of animals that exceed AMLs.

H. Energy and Mineral Resource Development: Like any other permitted activity on public land, energy and mineral resource development and production should be conducted in coordination with impacted counties and consistent with local natural resource plans to the maximum extent allowed by law. NACo supports the development and implementation of comprehensive and consistent national policies and regulations for energy and mineral production on public lands. This includes conservation efficiency, exploration, and research that provide for the siting, permitting, production, utilization, transmission, and delivery of traditional and alternative/renewable energy and mineral resources. Every effort should be made by land management agencies to reduce obstructions that cause significant project delays and costs, including conducting oil, gas and mineral lease sales on all federal lands categorized in their land use plans for such leasing.

NACo recognizes that U.S. energy independence requires expanded alternative and renewable resources that are available on federal public lands. NACo supports the expanded use of solar, wind, water, and other traditional and renewable energy resources to provide secure, clean, affordable energy by utilizing the best methods available. Infrastructure for renewable energy on public lands should be developed in coordination with impacted county governments and after thorough analyses showing that the local economy will not be negatively impacted.

When mitigation is required as a condition of mineral or energy development, NACo encourages federal agencies to adopt consistent procedures that provide for mitigation other than through land transfer from private to public ownership, unless supported by affected counties. When such transfers are deemed the only appropriate mitigation and offsetting Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) will not be received, agencies must ensure that project developers will continue to pay the property tax on the transferred land, or fees in lieu of taxes, in perpetuity, until the land is restored to private ownership.
I. Forest and Rangeland Health: NACo supports forest health initiatives that include fuels reduction, fuel breaks, and managing for diseases and pests, while maintaining the multiple use mandates and utilizing the best available, peer-reviewed science. NACo also supports broader use of categorical exclusions under NEPA, especially in cases of imminent threats to community watersheds, to timely and effectively address the threat of catastrophic events to our public forest and rangeland resources, and to allow for harvest of resources while they have economic value. Federal land management agencies shall utilize an appropriate mix of management practices including categorical exclusions and increased private, local and state contract and partnerships for pre-fire management, effective fire suppression, and restoration of federal forest and rangelands.

As a goal, NACo supports legislation directing federal forest management agencies to reduce Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC 3) to a standard of FRCC 1 in all federal forests, excepts designated Wilderness Areas, by the year 2050, through means of active landscape management, fuels reduction and immediate post-fire restoration. Due to the increased frequency and severity of wildfires caused by excessive fuel loads on federally managed public lands, NACo urges Congress and the Administration to use whatever tools available to reduce FRCC in a more expedited manner where possible.

J. Cooperatively Combating the Growing Threat of Wildfire to Public Lands Counties: Wildfire season is a year-round issue for public lands counties. Wildfires destroy public lands, endanger access to vital resources, decrease biodiversity, hinder economic opportunity, decimate municipal watersheds, and negatively impact public health and safety. County officials believe federal, state and local governments must work together to combat this growing threat to communities, livelihoods and the environment. This effort must include accelerated harvest and fuels reduction to levels that can be managed into the future, active forest management in areas that have recent fuels treatments, post-fire recovery and restoration efforts, addressing regulatory burdens, stopping frivolous lawsuits, engaging in scientifically-endorsed grazing practices and reinstating closed grazing allotments, reforestation, and appropriating sufficient funds to effectively combat wildfire on public lands without jeopardizing other accounts.

With the severe damage and threat to municipal water systems caused by increasingly frequent and destructive wildfires, NACo calls on the federal land management agencies to pursue at the earliest seasonal opportunity, a region-wide emergency project to thin-cut forest vegetation and clear deadfall and understory in all U.S. Forest Service lands where mapped city and town watersheds exist until the threat of catastrophic wildfire to those watersheds is eliminated.

K. Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species: NACo calls for a well-funded, coordinated and integrated management approach to noxious weed control on public lands. NACo supports an early detection and rapid response approach by all agencies and an accelerated completion of all environmental documentation to allow the use of all the tools needed to accomplish integrated pest management NACo calls on all federal land management agencies to coordinate with counties to better protect environmental resources from the threats and devastating impacts of invasive species.
NACo supports regulations to reduce importation of plants, exotic animals and insect species into the U.S. to help in the prevention of pest invasion. NACo supports state and federal prohibitions on the transportation of any state or federally listed invasive species, as well as efficient and effective agency action that stops other pathways of spread.

L. Military Installations: Recognizing the value counties and military installations bring to each other and their complex and sometimes competing needs, NACo supports establishment of open, consistent and long-term joint planning processes to help both communities co-exist and continue to thrive together. Early engagement, close cooperation, and joint coordination of community and military development plans are essential to minimize potential impacts. Affected counties shall be entitled to cooperating agency status for military initiatives under NEPA, while counties shall seek similar input from military installations.

M. Recreation and Tourism: Our public lands and historic sites draw millions of visitors each year. NACo acknowledges the value of the outdoor recreation economy as a $700 billion contributor to the nation’s Gross Domestic Product, and that most of this recreation takes place on federal public lands.

NACo supports the Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act to allow federal land agencies to retain revenues from specific fee areas to pay for upgrades, management and maintenance of Forest Service recreational areas. NACo further requests FLREA be amended to allow a portion of revenues from ski area leases be retained by the U.S. Forest Service to help pay for increased workload of managing ski area leases generated by recently passed ‘Summer Use’ legislation.

O. Funding for Our Public Lands Infrastructure: NACo calls on Congress to adequately fund infrastructure in its national parks, national forests, and other public lands. This includes funding to support roads, bridges, trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, interpretive projects, and related facilities. NACo supports increased funding for overdue capital and deferred maintenance projects for public lands management agencies. NACo reminds Congress these public lands management agencies provide multiple use activities including mineral extraction, forest products, subsistence resources, recreation, and tourism opportunities for millions of visitors and national resource users that make substantial economic impacts on our counties and gateway communities. The significant federal investment in public lands infrastructure over the years is at risk due to the lack of funding for needed repair and replacement projects and must be recognized as a critical element in public lands management.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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 (PLSS). NACo further urges the federal government to enforce existing guidelines and rules for the PLSS.

July 14, 2019
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 to allow counties that 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.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution on the Removal of Salt Cedar

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on Amendments to Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Side B Funding
- Establishing a Minimum

Issue: Counties, boroughs, towns, and parishes with large federal entitlement acreage and small populations have monetary caps within the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula that place them in an unfavorable position in relation to the majority of all other counties.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula to establish a base funding to all counties by setting the per-acre variable on the Alternative B to a minimum funding level adjusted by the CPI every year. In 2018, this number was $0.38 per acre. The maximum payment to counties would not be adjusted. The current population threshold would remain at 50,000.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Presidential Executive Order 13855 of December 21, 2018 Ordering the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to Achieve Specific Goals in 2019 to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk in America’s Forests, Rangelands and Other Public Lands

Issue: Decades of amassed tree, understory and shrub growth that have placed communities, homes, industry, agriculture, and water supply systems and people at serious risk for damage and death from catastrophic wildfires, and following through on the specific 2019 performance goals of Executive Order (EO) 13855 for fuels treatment and wood products harvesting.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports rigorous and timely accountability and performance reviews by the respective Inspector Generals (IG) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to assess and report on the progress and performance by the DOI and USDA Secretaries in meeting the specific 2019 goals of EO 13855.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Require Federal Land Management Agencies to Offset Acquisition of New Land to Mitigate Financial Impact on Impacted Counties

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

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact federal legislation to require federal land management agencies to take into account the impact of transferring private land to federal ownership on counties and their tax payers, including the ability of county governments to provide necessary public services and the extent of any tax shift or loss

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of county property tax revenues that will occur as a result of the acquisition. Federal land
management agencies, where possible, should be required to offset any acquisition of new land
with a similar relinquishment by trade or sale of public land to private ownership within the same
county. If additional federal land acquisitions are deemed necessary or agreed to by the impacted
county, such lands may be acquired without offset. In all instances, federal land management
agencies must coordinate with affected counties and disclose the financial impact to counties
reflecting the loss of tax base and land use prior to new land acquisitions taking place.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Increased Federal Public Lands Agency Funding

Issue: Federal public land agency operating budgets have a substantial impact on county
economies. Proposed decreases in these budgets will hurt counties dependent on recreation for
jobs and revenue.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund
federal public lands agency budgets in order to ensure the greatest amount of recreational access
to federal public lands and to support gateway communities economically reliant on tourism and
recreation.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting the Use of Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Funding to Engage in Forest Thinning and
Restoration Activities on Public and Private Lands
**Issue:** The need for adequate, robust and timely forest restoration to mitigate the threat of future catastrophic crown fires and reduce the risk associated from post wildfire flooding and debris flow events is critical to reducing the threat to public safety that many western forested counties confront.

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

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Supporting Federal Funding to Promote and Expedite Building Private Forest Industry in Regions with Low to No-Value Trees**

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

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal funding to promote and expedite the building of the private wood products industry in regions with low to no-value trees to allow consumption of forest products, including biomass as a pathway to forest restoration and reduction of the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Support the Return of 40 Percent of Federal Mineral Lease Revenue to the County in Which It Was Generated**

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

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

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Urging That U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Policies Include Counts of Utah Prairie Dogs and Other Threatened and Endangered Species on Private and State Trust Lands as Well as Federal Lands for the Purpose of Measuring the Success of Species Recovery Efforts

**Issue:** Including inventory counts of recovering Utah Prairie Dogs and other recovering Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species.

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

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Allow Permitless Gathering of Wood Products from Areas Where Those Products are Already Planned for Controlled Burn, Slashing, Chipping and Other Treatments

**Issue:** Permitless gathering of wood products by the public off of Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, before the agencies destroy those wood products in a planned treatment project.

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

**July 14, 2019**
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Calling on the U.S. Forest Service to Timely Increase Active Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on Grazing Allotments That Have Undergone Vegetative Treatments or Undergone Conversions Between Cattle and Sheep

**Issue:** Forest Service’s refusal in many cases to update and increase grazing allotment active Animal Unit Months (AUMs) following vegetative management projects or following the conversion of approved grazing animals between sheep and cattle.

**Proposed Policy:** NACo urges the U.S. Forest Service to timely update and increase active Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on grazing allotments that have undergone vegetative management treatments of any kind, or that have undergone a conversion of approved grazing animals from
sheep to cattle or from cattle to sheep, in order to update, reflect and implement the Active AUM carrying capacity of those allotments for the operator. If any studies and reports are necessary, such as occupancy studies or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related studies, then the Forest Service should commence those studies immediately after the vegetation project or conversion in question has been completed. NACo also urges the U.S. Forest Service to include grazing and Active AUM impact analyses within NEPA and other environmental studies conducted before vegetative treatments.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Urging the U.S. Forest Service to Address its Backlog of Needed Restorations and Replacements of Aging and Deteriorating Grazing Infrastructure**

**Issue:** Aging and deteriorated grazing infrastructure on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) allotments nationwide, where fences, stockwatering fixtures for catchment, conveyance and access, and other grazing related infrastructure on USFS lands have deteriorated beyond the ranching operators’ ability to perform routine maintenance on them.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation and cabinet-level administrative orders to require the U.S. Forest Service to inventory the backlog of needed restorations, replacements and repairs of aging and dilapidated grazing infrastructure, such as fences, stockwatering fixtures for catchment, conveyance and access, etc., that have deteriorated so badly as to be no longer maintainable by the ranchers on a routine basis, and require regional foresters to devise and carry out region-by-region plans to prioritize and address this backlog.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Urging the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Follow Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and Place Maximum Feasible Reliance on the Local County Sheriff for all the BLM’s Law Enforcement Needs, Before Deploying BLM Law Enforcement Officers, or in the Alternative Urging Congress to Abolish the BLM’s Law Enforcement Program If the BLM Will Not Follow FLPMA’s Direction**

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Prevent the Establishment of a National Monument without the Affected State and County’s Approval.

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Presidential Proclamation 9682 Dated December 4, 2017 That Modified and Reduced the Boundary and Size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Under the Authority of the Antiquities Act

Issue: The President’s authority to act on December 4, 2017 under the Antiquities Act to modify and reduce the boundaries and size of one national monument in southern Utah, over a million acres in size, and to order a new management plan for the reduced monument, done at the behest of the state and county wherein the national monument is located.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports, in light of the unified support that came from the government leaders of the affected state, the county wherein the monument is located, as well as the state’s congressional delegation, the actions and proclamation of the president on December 4, 2017 to modify and reduce the boundaries and size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, designated in 1996, under the authority of the Antiquities Act that requires any reservation of land as part of a national monument be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects of historic or scientific interest to be protected, and to order the issuance of a new management plan for the reduced monuments.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on the Council of Environmental Quality’s Revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations

Issue: The Council of Environmental Quality (“CEQ”) is in the process of updating its National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) implementing regulations.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports revising NEPA implementing regulations to require federal agencies to regularly provide meaningful opportunities for states and counties to be involved in the NEPA process for planning and projects on federal lands that may affect the economy, society and culture of constituents. NACo asks that the CEQ work closely with state and local governments to revise the NEPA regulations.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and county governments in combating the spread of this invasive species.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend and Update the Endangered Species Act of 1973

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

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Congress of the United States to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to reflect its intended purpose "to protect
endangered species and the ecosystems on which they depend” and to ensure that the rights of
people are also protected.

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 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 costs-benefits analysis 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
interstate species.
15. Prohibit ESA listings of candidate species found residing exclusively within a single
state.
16. Postpone the listing and/or federal protection of a species that has recently been
determined by USFWS to be threatened or endangered, and which are located in states or
counties that have developed and/or implemented a good faith conservation management
plan for said species.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Allow the Public and Public Entities to Comment on Wilderness Characteristics Cataloging and Inventory by Federal Land Management Agencies

**Issue:** Wilderness characteristics cataloging and inventory without the right of the public and public entities to comment and challenge.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes any continuing wilderness characteristics inventory and cataloging by federal land management agencies without input and consent of impacted county governments.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Cease Wilderness Characteristic Inventory in Alaska

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


July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Supporting the Utilization of Domestic Livestock Grazing as a Cost-Effective and Viable Method for Hazardous Fuels Reduction Goals in Executive Order 13855, Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk

**Issue:** Allowing grazing as an acceptable form of active forest and vegetation management to reduce hazardous fuel loads.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Trump Administration to instruct federal land management agencies to utilize domestic livestock grazing as a cost-effective and viable method of hazardous fuels reduction on public lands in the West. In accordance with Executive Order 13855, counties urge the administration to require agencies to reactivate all suspended non-use Animal Unit Months (AUMs) when requested by permittees, unless the agencies can produce peer-reviewed, irrefutable scientific evidence that doing so would be detrimental to the range. Additionally, counties recommend that all grazing permits be treated as outcome-based in order to grant federal agencies greater flexibility to respond to conditions on the ground.

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Regarding Wildland Fire Regulations and Policies

**Issue:** Federal agencies, including the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), have adopted regulations, policies, and guidelines that allow lightning-caused fires to burn on federal lands at all times and that permit the use of prescribed fires, regardless of ignition source, on federal lands at all times. (See, e.g., Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy & Program Review, December 18, 1995 and Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, February 13, 2009.)

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports greater coordination between federal land management agencies and local governments in implementing wildland fire suppression policies and strategies, with the understanding that a blanket, one-size-fits-all policy is untenable on diverse landscapes. Federal agencies must work with local governments to accomplish their (Federal agencies) land management goals, including wildfire suppression and risk reduction, and ensure such efforts do not jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of local residents.

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGES

Proposed Platform Changes Under “Statement of Basic Philosophy,” Subsection E. Wireless Communications Facilities Siting and Subsection J. Broadband Deployment and Adoption

STATEMENT OF BASIC PHILOSOPHY

Counties play a major role in the nation’s communications system as regulators, service providers, and consumers of communications services. County officials have a responsibility to ensure that the public interest is being served by communications providers, regardless of the delivery platform. The social goals and public good expected from our citizens must be ensured. This includes public educational government access, public and homeland security matters, and protecting the interests of special needs citizens.

Expanding communication has become a critical component of a successful economic development policy. Access to affordable high-speed internet is critical to attract and retain skilled jobs and industries, and counties labor and industries as first responders to homeland security threats and events. Additionally, homeland security requires has required a much wider an integral role for counties in securing the Nation. Adequate communications systems and information access are vital to meet this growing important responsibility. It is therefore imperative that county officials play an key increasing role in the future of communications policy.

E. Wireless Communications Facilities Siting: Counties have a regulatory role regarding the siting of tower and antenna facilities. With the exception of decisions based on the health effects of radio frequency (RF) emissions, local authority is preserved with minimal limitations supporting nondiscriminatory, timely action. Even in the case of RF emissions, the law clearly requires that the facilities operate in compliance with RF emission standards.

NACo believes any disputes between counties and the industry should continue to be resolved in the courts on a case-by-case basis. No federal actions should undermine local government’s zoning authority.

Counties have an obligation to their constituents to ensure that, to the extent possible, the public health, safety and welfare are not endangered or otherwise compromised by the construction, modification or installation of broadcast facilities/towers. NACo believes nothing should preempt local government authority to reject new tower sitting applications upon finding of adequate existing facilities.

NACo supports policy and/or legislation giving more consideration to public health and safety needs when locating cell towers and broadcast facilities on public lands in rural areas with little or no service.

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 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution Calling on Congress to Actively Engage Counties Prior to Developing 5G Wireless Infrastructure

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

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to work with local officials when drafting legislation that would encourage the use of state or county owned land, including public rights-of-way, to build new wireless infrastructure including fifth (5G) wireless networks, to expand service to rural areas, or to promote digital equity. NACo has long advocated for universal access to reliable wireline and wireless high-speed broadband service – as crucial for education, employment, and economic development – and NACo further urges Congress to oppose any legislative or regulatory proposals that would limit or preempt local zoning authority, or the ability of local governments to charge reasonable fees for the use of publicly owned land to build wireless infrastructure.
July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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 14, 2019
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 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to set policy that is better suited to our elected representatives.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (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.

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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

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

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

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Encouraging Congress to Pass Legislation to Formalize the Process Through Which Data Gathered by the TestIT App is Used to Modify the Broadband Coverage Maps**

**Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo), through efforts from NACo’s Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee and the Rural Action Caucus (RAC), is at the forefront of the issue of creating accurate broadband coverage maps. The current maps tend to inflate the availability of service across the nation but particularly in more rural areas. These maps are an important source document in the development of national broadband deployment policy and the deployment of federal funds for broadband development. Having accurate coverage maps is essential to the development of good federal policy on broadband deployment.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create a formal process by which crowd-sourced data gathered by applications such as the TestIT app can be used to create new or update the existing FCC broadband coverage maps. Further, NACo believes that such legislation should require the FCC to test and certify the accuracy of these crowd-sourcing applications.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution in Support for Federal Legislation to Implement Next Generation 911**

**Issue:** There is an urgent need to implement Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems and services nationwide to ensure that members of the public and first responders (i.e., 911, police, fire, EMS) benefit from modern emergency communications services.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that affirms nationwide implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) as a national
imperative and national priority, and provides funding to facilitate implementation across all states, U.S. territories, tribal lands and the District of Columbia.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support Preserving Public Safety’s Access to the T-Band (470-512 MHz)

Issue: On February 22, 2012, President Barrack Obama signed Public Law 112-96. The law requires that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) begin auctioning the public safety T-Band spectrum (470-512 MHz) by February 2021 and clear all public safety operations from the band within two years of auction close.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the Don’t Break up the T-Band Act of 2019 (H.R. 451), which requires the auction of the spectrum and the relocation public safety incumbents from the T-Band spectrum.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Nationwide 2-1-1 System

Issue: While 2-1-1 service is available to many parts of the country, there remain gaps in coverage and gaps in service levels for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal resources to support the network’s 24/7 nationwide capacity that has the ability to link vulnerable residents to critical services.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the creation of a nationwide 2-1-1 system to connect unconnected residents to 2-1-1 services anywhere in the United States by leveraging the 240-plus 2-1-1 providers that currently cover 94 percent of the population, and should be used as the non-emergency number during regional and statewide disasters to connect residents to critical information and resources.

Currently 94 percent of Americans have access to a 2-1-1 service in their local communities, but serious gaps in access to a 2-1-1 service remain for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal resources to support the network’s 24/7 nationwide capacity. More work is needed for the 2-1-1 network to attain its full potential to be a nationwide resource that can strengthen families and local communities. We urge our federal partners to help bridge the gap of access for Americans by supporting the creation of nationwide 2-1-1 texting capability so every American can connect with vital services 24/7; supporting opportunities for 2-1-1 to secure funding from federal agencies to expand their current capabilities to reach unconnected communities and regions; and supporting investments in 2-1-1’s disaster recovery services through partnerships with government agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
**Proposed Resolution on Preserving Local Franchise Obligations**

**Issue:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (05-311) that a cable operator be able to reduce its cable franchise fees by the market value of franchise obligations such as services to schools and libraries and Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) affirms the importance of cable franchising in granting permission for cable companies to use valuable public property for their lines and opposes any regulatory proceeding or legislation that seek to alter the terms of existing franchises, including any effort to require that non-financial obligations be subject to offset against franchise fees.

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

**Proposed Resolution Calling for the Federal Communications Commission to Address the Lack of Cellular Phone Coverage for Unserved and Underserved Areas of the United States**

**Issue:** Many areas of the United States, particularly in rural areas, are either underserved or not served at all by cellular phone carriers preventing residents and visitors from accessing emergency services through E-911.

**Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to direct additional funding for the build-out of additional cellular communications capabilities in the unserved and underserved areas of the United States through the High Cost Program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
TRANSPORTATION

PROPOSED PLATFORM CHANGE

Proposed Platform Changes to the Funding and Financing Tools Section, Subsection D.
Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)

Funding and Financing Tools Section
Subsection D. Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)
NACo supports the continued collection of PFC fees for every boarded passenger by public agencies that control commercial airports. NACo also supports efforts by Congress to lift the cap on PFCs in order to provide more local control over investment decisions; relieve burdens on federal taxpayers; and, increase airline competition.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Platform Changes to the Highways Section, Subsection F. Trucks and Vehicle Size and Weights

Highways Section
Subsection F. Trucks and Vehicle Size and Weights
NACo believes adequate federal funding should be provided to compensate state and local governments for any infrastructure upgrades necessary to accommodate the vehicle size, weight, and configurations mandated by Congress. NACo opposes any increases in truck size or weight until Congress requires a full impact analysis that any increases may have on the national transportation system, including the added cost on state and local governments. NACo supports full funding of these impacts by Congress and expects Congress to fund any additional impacts suffered by local infrastructure in Congress’ performing of the analysis.
NACo also supports the continued requirement that all trucks have underride protection devices and believes that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should periodically review the adequacy of such regulations.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolution on Regulating Air Ambulances Under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA)

Issue: Air ambulance emergency services have grown significantly in recent decades, as have their cost. The average air ambulance trip can cost tens-of-thousands of dollars and patients are not readily provided this information until they receive their bill. Air ambulances cannot be regulated under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA), and therefore are able to charge exorbitant rates.
Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports policies to remove air ambulances from the definition of “Air Carrier” in the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) and to ensure other federal laws do not prevent states from regulating air ambulance billing rates to protect consumers from price-gouging and/or balance billing conducted by some air ambulance providers. NACo encourages Congress to do a thorough and complete study of air ambulance operations.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting Funding for the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) Grant

Issue: The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 (P.L. 113-235) allowed the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to use money recovered from prior year Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants to fund the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grants. The language reauthorizing the grant must be re-entered in the appropriations language every year. Funding levels depend on how efficiently states use their HMEP grants. Over the past few years, states have begun to utilize their funding more efficiently, leaving little money for those who are first on the front line.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to designate $6 million in dedicated funds for the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grant program, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Supporting a National Voluntary Registry of Persons with Invisible Disabilities When Applying for a Government Issued Identification Document

Issue: Persons with invisible disabilities drive, work and play in our society and the recognition of such disabilities by law enforcement is paramount to everyone’s safety.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to support a nationwide, individual state driven model that allows persons with hidden disabilities to voluntarily register that they have such a disability when applying for a government issued identification card and/or driver’s license.

July 14, 2019
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 any proposed 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, heavy rail, and light rail systems.

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

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 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution in Support of Eliminating Regulatory Impediments for Effective Delivery of Federal Aid Projects

**Issue:** Federal regulatory impediments hinder the effective delivery of federal aid projects.

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

**July 14, 2019**

Approved | NACo Board of Directors
Proposed Resolution Supporting Increased Consideration of Alternative Congestion Mitigation Measures

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

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

July 14, 2019

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution Urging Congress to Amend the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) and Hours of Service (HOS) Final Rule to Provide an Agricultural Exemption

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

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

July 14, 2019

Approved | NACo Board of Directors

Proposed Resolution to Establish NACo’s Legislative Position for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Budget Appropriation for FY 2020

**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:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) annual appropriations for FY 2020 to be maintained, at minimum, at the authorized FY 2019 level, and whenever possible, be increased to assist projects that support the economic output, mobility, and safety of the American people.
Proposed Resolution Directing Federal Policymakers to Improve Indian School Bus Routes

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

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the improvement of dirt school bus routes on Indian reservations through three key measures:

1) Increasing annual funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Road Maintenance Program (RMP);

2) Prioritizing additional RMP funds for dirt school bus routes on Indian reservations that are persistently impassable; and,

3) Including counties in tribal roads meetings hosted by the BIA and Office of Federal Lands Highway.

Proposed Resolution Directing Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to Assist Economically Disadvantaged Counties by Waiving the Local Match Requirement

Issue: Economically disadvantaged counties must rely heavily on federal grants that require matching funds to pay for critical repairs and capital improvements; however, economically disadvantaged counties often times have no means to contribute to the match which further disadvantages these communities and their residents.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to waive the match requirement when a grant is awarded to an economically disadvantaged county. An economically disadvantaged county, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 3161, shall possess one or more of the following characteristics:

- Has a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average;
- Has an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for data are available, at least one percent greater than the national average; or
- Has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.
Proposed Resolution to Amend Federal Law Regarding the Use of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) Funds

Issue: Current law governing the use of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) funds does not allow enough time for counties with projects to repair roads damaged in federally declared disaster areas to advance to the construction stage.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend federal law, specifically 23 CFR 668.105(h), to allow entities receiving Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) funds six years after a disaster occurrence to advance projects to the construction obligation stage, as opposed to the two year requirement in current law. Additionally, NACo urges the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to suspend its recent practice of rejecting extensions to the two-year rule while Congress debates a change to current law.

July 14, 2019
Approved | NACo Board of Directors