



# Interim Policy Resolutions

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As Approved by the NACo Board of Directors

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1 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution to Amend the Highway Beautification Act to Improve Agritourism**

4  
5 **Issue:** Efforts to improve rural economies through new agritourism activities are being hindered by a lack  
6 of outdoor advertising on highways that receive federal funding.

7  
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the 23 U.S. Code §  
9 131, Control of outdoor advertising pursuant to the Highway Beautification Act (HBA), to allow  
10 appropriate and attractive outdoor advertising signage to include off-premise directional signage in  
11 agriculturally-zoned districts for agritourism activities to foster economic vitality for our rural  
12 communities and counties.

13  
14 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

15  
16 **Interim Resolution on Farmer Suicides**

17  
18 **Issue:** Support the Seeding Rural Resilience Act (S. 2599) to reduce the growing rate of farmer and rancher  
19 suicides.

20  
21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Seeding Rural Resilience Act  
22 (S. 2599), which seeks to curb the growing rate of farmer and rancher suicides by creating a Farmer-Facing  
23 Employee Training Program, developing a mental health awareness and destigmatization campaign and  
24 establishing a task force on rural mental health.

25  
26 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban**  
4 **Development**

5  
6 **Issue:** Support Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
7 Development (HUD).

8  
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following  
10 levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the  
11 Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
12 Appropriations bill: no less than \$3.8 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula  
13 funding; no less than \$1.6 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program  
14 (HOME); \$2.8 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance Grants, including at least \$270 million for the  
15 Emergency Solutions Grant program, plus an amount to fully fund expiring Supportive Housing and  
16 Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-  
17 based contracts; \$40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and \$500 million in  
18 Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

19  
20 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

21  
22 **Interim Resolution on Low-Income Housing Tax Credits**

23  
24 **Issue:** To build and preserve more affordable housing through the expansion of the Low-Income Housing  
25 Tax Credit program.

26  
27 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the Affordable  
28 Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019 (S. 1703 / H.R. 3077) to expand and preserve the nation’s  
29 affordable housing stock.

30  
31 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

32  
33 **Interim Resolution on FY 2021 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

34  
35 **Issue:** Support FY 2021 appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

36  
37 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide adequate  
38 resources for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and fund the Title I, Title II  
39 and III accounts at the levels authorized and listed below:

40  
41 Title I – U.S. Department of Labor

- 42 • \$861.1 million for Adult Employment and Training Services, \$922.2 million for the Youth  
43 Account and \$1.37 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

44 Title II – U.S. Department of Education

- 45 • \$656.955 million for Adult Education

1 Title III – Wagner-Peyser Employment Services

- 2 • \$668 million for Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) current-year levels to give states the  
3 additional resources they need to provide WIOA’s intensive reemployment services  
4

5 In addition, NACo supports only a WIOA formula allocation funding approach. NACo supports local  
6 control and investment at the county and municipality level and rejects any mechanism that gives states  
7 more authority than WIOA intends. NACo also supports strengthening the county’s role in planning and  
8 administering WIOA programs.  
9

10 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

11 **Interim Resolution Supporting Increased Funding and Prioritization for Military Housing**

12 **Issue:** Media and official reports throughout 2018 and 2019 detailed the below-adequate, neglected and  
13 unsafe state of military housing for the Armed Services. Military officials have stated the need for more  
14 funding to improve the conditions of housing stock for the Armed Services.  
15  
16

17 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Department  
18 of Defense to prioritize funding and implementation of improvements to military housing to improve safety  
19 and quality of life for the members of the Armed Services that protect our country.  
20  
21

22 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

1 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution on Implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Refrigerant**  
4 **Management Rules**

5  
6 **Issue:** New federal regulations require strict air conditioning (AC) system inspections, maintenance and  
7 record keeping, include heavy fines and apply to all AC system owners. Most county governments are  
8 subject to these rules and many are not aware of their liability.

9  
10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to provide  
11 resources to assist with the implementation of Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, including additional  
12 funding for training and assistance with tracking and documentation, maintenance, disposal and reporting  
13 requirements.

14 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

15  
16 **Interim Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation**

17  
18  
19 **Issue:** Designating the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national  
20 significance and the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program.

21  
22 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S.  
23 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System  
24 as estuaries of national significance, and by extension recognize the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary  
25 Program as a National Estuary Program (NEP), per Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Furthermore,  
26 NACo urges the federal government to achieve a funding level to continue the NEP to all counties that  
27 meet a locally-significant start up program.

28  
29 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

30  
31 **Interim Resolution on Partnerships for Clean Energy and Rural Development**

32  
33 **Issue:** 201 counties in the United States, with a population of nearly 125 million people, do not attain the  
34 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards. This can have a profound effect on  
35 the economies of these areas, yet county officials often have little control over the sources of air pollution  
36 because they originate in other political jurisdictions or are regulated by other entities.

37  
38 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal financial assistance to  
39 counties to implement innovative regional approaches for reducing air pollution, including locally driven  
40 actions that include energy efficiency, renewable energy projects and cross jurisdictional legislative  
41 actions. NACo urges the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to include a specific line  
42 item for new direct non-competitive grants in the funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural  
43 Development.

44  
45 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

1 **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution on Federal Government Nonpayment of Special District Fees**

4  
5 **Issue:** The federal government refuses to pay its fair share, arguing it is a tax rather than a fee.

6  
7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal regulatory and  
8 legislative efforts to ensure the federal government pays its fair share of special district fees.

9  
10 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**



1 **HEALTH**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution on New Restrictions on State and Local Flexibility to Finance the Non-Federal**  
4 **Share of Medicaid**

5  
6 **Issue:** State and county flexibility to finance the non-federal share of Medicaid.  
7

8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the current rules that undergird  
9 the federal-state-local partnership for financing the Medicaid program, including Disproportionate Share  
10 Hospital (DSH) payments and other supplemental payments. These rules permit using an array of public  
11 funds for intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), certified public expenditures (CPEs) and other financing  
12 mechanisms. Counties encourage maximum flexibility for states and counties to finance the non-federal  
13 share of Medicaid. Counties oppose any new restrictions on that flexibility which could shift costs to state  
14 and local taxpayers and/or limit the ability to plan and reduce access to essential health care services for  
15 low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents.  
16

17 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

18 **Interim Resolution to Increase Resources for Suicide Prevention**

19  
20  
21 **Issue:** Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death  
22 among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34.  
23

24 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the strengthening of services through  
25 additional funding and resources for those suffering from mental illness and other factors, who may be at  
26 risk for suicide.  
27

28 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

29  
30 **Interim Resolution on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Regulations of Cannabidiol and**  
31 **Other Cannabinoids**

32  
33 **Issue:** The U.S. is in the midst of a “CBD craze.” Purveyors of cannabidiol (CBD) make vastly  
34 exaggerated claims about its effects for a very broad array of health conditions. These claims have not  
35 been tested for accuracy. In this context, persons with mental health and substance use conditions are at  
36 great risk of using CBD to attempt to “cure” their conditions, rather than adhering to more appropriate and  
37 effective medications. Other consumers are likely to take the same actions with respect to other health  
38 conditions because of the wild claims made about CBD products.  
39

40 Clinical trials also demonstrate that there are adverse health effects associated with inappropriate use of  
41 CBD, including drug-induced liver injury and drug-drug interactions. Adverse effects such as these can be  
42 monitored and managed with physician oversight, which occurs with prescription medicines. But for CBD  
43 consumer products, individuals will be self-administering CBD without physician supervision. Thus, the  
44 CBD craze poses a major public health risk.  
45

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Food and Drug Administration  
2 (FDA) to develop appropriate pathways for the testing and approval of cannabinoids as medications using  
3 rigorous standards. To date only one cannabidiol (CBD) based medication, Epidiolex, has been approved  
4 for the treatment of refractory epilepsy in small children. NACo further urges the FDA to develop  
5 appropriate pathways for the testing and approval of food supplements and cosmetics that contain low  
6 concentration levels of CBD, as well as other cannabinoids, using rigorous standards. These standards  
7 should address important issues of safety, purity and consistency. Finally, NACo urges FDA to require  
8 physicians to share with their patients' appropriate information and resources regarding the safety of CBD  
9 products and the status of the products approved by FDA.

10  
11 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

12  
13 **Interim Resolution Supporting an Amendment to the Federally Supported Health Centers**  
14 **Assistance Act Clarifying that County Mental Health and Behavioral Health Treatments Involving**  
15 **Court Ordered Patients are Covered by the Federal Torts Claim Act**  
16

17 **Issue:** As more and more counties turn to addressing issues at the intersection of public safety and  
18 behavioral health, protecting counties from related litigation must be a part of that conversation. Courts  
19 are partners in these policy evolutions and already enjoy wide ranging immunity for their actions. When  
20 courts order defendants into community treatment within a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), it  
21 is imperative that counties are clear on the federal protections provided to their employees to be  
22 considered a federal employee in the event of a lawsuit. The National Association of Counties (NACo)  
23 seeks clarifying language that will make the original intent of Congress clear, such that counties are not  
24 exposed to excessive litigation or forced to bring suit against the federal government for protections  
25 which exist under the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act and the Federal Tort Claims  
26 Act. This resolution does not remove or diminish access to justice, rather it shifts the source of potential  
27 remedies from counties to the federal government.

28  
29 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following amendments to  
30 the Federally Supported Health Centers Act:

- 31  
32
  - Amend 42 USC § 233 (g) (1) (c) to clarify that an individual ordered into treatment at a Federally  
33 Qualified Health Center (FQHC) by a court is a patient of the entity.

34  
35 The intent of this first amendment is to clearly establish that not all patients of a FQHC are voluntarily  
36 seeking treatment and that not all FQHC are voluntarily providing treatment. Patients may well have  
37 existing criminal charges pending or have otherwise been ordered by a court to receive treatment from a  
38 FQHC to establish their competency to aid and assist in their own defense or as part of an alternative-to-  
39 incarceration sentencing framework.

- 40  
41
  - Amend 42 USC § 233 (a) to clarify that behavioral and mental health treatment is a related  
42 function (to medical, surgical and dental functions)

43  
44 The intent of this amendment is to more clearly establish that behavioral and mental health treatment is  
45 included as an exclusive remedy. The Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act suggests

1 damages arising from death and injury “resulting from the performance of medical, surgical, dental, or  
2 related functions...shall be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding...”  
3

4 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

5

6 **Interim Resolution Supporting Urgent Congressional Action for COVID-19 Response and**  
7 **Protecting Local Public Health Funding**

8

9 **Issue:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar has declared COVID-  
10 19 a public health emergency. Response from local public health and other county emergency services, as  
11 well as state and federal partners, requires urgent additional appropriation.  
12

13 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass a Fiscal Year  
14 2020 supplemental appropriation to expand and strengthen global, federal, state, territorial, tribal and  
15 local capacity and coordination to adequately respond to this infectious disease outbreak. NACo requests  
16 that the Department of Defense maintain jurisdiction over cases within their health system if there is  
17 adequate capacity to treat and contain the risk. Furthermore, NACo requests that the federal government  
18 use the long-standing communication practices in use in previous public health emergencies.  
19

20 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2  
3 **Interim Resolution Supporting Full Funding of Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education**  
4 **Act**

5  
6 **Issue:** For over 50 years, the federal government has significantly underfunded both Title I of the  
7 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, denying  
8 adequate resources to our most at-risk youth.

9  
10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts to require  
11 Congress to fiscally meet its obligation to fully fund Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
12 Act (ESEA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) over the next 10 years.

13  
14 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

15  
16 **Interim Resolution to Support Working Families by Increasing the Earned Income and Child Tax**  
17 **Credits**

18  
19 **Issue:** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are important tax policies  
20 supporting working families and their children. Tied to incomes, the EITC and CTC help increase  
21 employment and earnings. Consequently, the tax credits assist in increasing the economic independence  
22 of low to middle income working families.

23  
24 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to increase and  
25 expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Those provisions include, but  
26 are not limited to, increasing the EITC and lowering the age of eligibility for single individuals who are  
27 not raising their dependent child, thus increasing the noncustodial parent’s incentive to work and income  
28 for their child; and, reforming the CTC to include, among other provisions, making it fully refundable so  
29 all families may benefit from it.

30  
31 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

32  
33 **Interim Resolution Supporting Legislation on Early Childhood Development**

34  
35 **Issue:** Children ages birth to three need a healthy start consisting of comprehensive, nurturing and  
36 supportive services to help them reach their full potential for success in life.

37  
38 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would protect  
39 and increase investments in early childhood development to ensure that needed educational, nutritional  
40 and social services are available to children in the critical years of development between birth and age  
41 three.

42  
43 These investments include greater coordination among pre-school programs in schools and county-run  
44 programs such as home visiting programs, publicly funded child care, child wellness, Head Start, Early  
45 Head Start and quality childcare including the support of the early childhood workforce. Collaboration  
46 with highly trained and motivated partners who build exceptional early childhood ecosystems are pivotal  
47 in providing a generation of young people who enter school ready to learn. By investing in and

1 demonstrating leadership in these early childhood development programs, we can begin to bring about  
2 successful educational outcomes to fight poverty and reduce inequality across our nation.

3  
4 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

5  
6 **Interim Resolution to Support the Administration’s FY 2021 Budget Proposal to Improve the**  
7 **Family First Prevention Services Act**

8  
9 **Issue:** The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) makes reforms to the delivery of child welfare  
10 services by providing federal reimbursement through IV-E federal foster care for evidence based  
11 prevention programs and services approved by FFPSA’s Prevention Services Clearinghouse. A goal of  
12 the FFPSA is to keep children in their homes whenever safe and possible. The current statutory  
13 requirements used by the clearinghouse to determine those programs are very restrictive, resulting in few  
14 prevention programs eligible for reimbursement.

15  
16 The FFPSA also intends to reduce the use of congregate care by setting a number of new federal  
17 requirements to discourage its use. One of those requirements, however, would have the unintended effect  
18 of disallowing Medicaid reimbursement for FFPSA Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)  
19 that are currently under the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion. The IMD provision  
20 prohibits Medicaid from paying for institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in  
21 providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental illnesses, including medical attention,  
22 nursing care and related services.

23  
24 The Trump Administration’s FY 2021 budget proposes statutory changes to address the above FFPSA  
25 impediments.

26  
27 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the administration’s FY 2021  
28 budget proposal and introduction of legislation to address the current lack of evidence-based prevention  
29 programs eligible for federal IV-E reimbursement under the Family First Prevention Services Act  
30 (FFPSA). NACo supports the administration’s proposal to allow the Administration for Children and  
31 Families (ACF) to approve all programs currently rated as evidence-based by the California Evidence-  
32 Based Clearinghouse and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Home Visiting Evidence  
33 of Effectiveness Project.

34  
35 NACo also supports the administration’s proposal to remove the federal bar on Medicaid payments to  
36 Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) that are currently under the Institutions for Mental  
37 Diseases (IMD) payment exclusion in order to allow some congregate care entities to serve children when  
38 that placement is appropriate and necessary.

39  
40 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

# JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## Interim Resolution Supporting Vulnerable Incarcerated Individuals Medical Care, Housing and Safety

**Issue:** Vulnerable inmates deserve appropriate medical care, and physical, mental and emotional safety while incarcerated.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges additional funding specifically available to counties to implement Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance in local jails, and for the National Institute of Corrections to issue comprehensive guidance based on scientific evidence and best practices regarding medical care, housing and safety considerations for the most vulnerable incarcerated individuals.

**Adopted | March 2, 2020**

## Interim Resolution Supporting the TAPS Act and Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Legislation to Prevent Targeted Acts of Violence in Our Communities

**Issue:** The issue of targeted acts of violence in America’s schools and workplaces has grown in importance and impact to the American psyche. Years of efforts to restrict the tools used by violent actors have failed to stop these atrocities and no reactive method is fast enough to stop actors once they fire their first shot or stab their first victim. For decades, the process of Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) has been used to proactively identify, investigate, assess and mitigate threats of targeted violence – and BTAM is, in fact, the methodology used to protect members of Congress and their staff as well as other government officials. Scientifically validated BTAM processes exist that can and must be used in our communities.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to implement Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) by providing guidelines across all levels of government and providing counties with training, resources and support needed to stand up community-based multidisciplinary BTAM units in order to intervene and mitigate targeted acts of violence in our communities. Specifically, NACo supports the establishment of a temporary working group made up of BTAM experts to make recommendations to Congress regarding a national strategy for preventing targeted violence and the other components of the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act (H.R. 838/S. 265).

**Adopted | March 2, 2020**

## Interim Resolution on Reforming Pretrial Monetary Bail

**Issue:** Seeking alternatives to existing bail structure that lessen the financial burden of pretrial detainees.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to put forth legislation that would provide alternatives to the existing monetary bail structure for nonviolent crime; to reduce mass incarceration in the current system involving individuals awaiting trial, who are

1 incarcerated because they cannot afford to pay bail. NACo encourages the federal government to support  
2 counties through funding and technical assistance for data collection and explore the viability of monetary  
3 bail alternatives, such as a pretrial safety assessment (PSA) release option. NACo also urges Congress to  
4 direct funding to counties and relevant agencies for their support to conduct research on alternatives to the  
5 current bail system.

6  
7 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

8  
9 **Interim Resolution on Addressing Community Violence as a Public Health Issue**

10  
11 **Issue:** Determining the causes of community violence through data collection to establish a prevention  
12 framework for local governments from a public health approach.

13  
14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to introduce legislation  
15 and ensure sustained funding for: (1) collection of data on community violence offenders and firearm-  
16 related deaths, including but not limited to age, gender, location of crime, prior charges or convictions and  
17 race; (2) research on the gathered data to better understand the root causes of community violence; and (3)  
18 implementation of community violence prevention plans and programs by counties to address the causes  
19 identified. NACo also calls on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of  
20 Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide funding and  
21 technical assistance for the collection and analysis of this data, as well as counties' community violence  
22 prevention strategies.

23  
24 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

## PUBLIC LANDS

### Interim Resolution on U.S. Forest Service Workforce Capacity and Infrastructure

**Issue:** The U.S. Forest Service lacks the personnel and infrastructure capacity necessary to properly manage, conserve and restore the National Forest System.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the findings and conclusions set forth in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees’ report, entitled “Increasing Workforce Capacity to Increase the Pace and Scale of Restoration on National Forest System Lands” and will work with the administration and Congress toward implementing the report’s recommendations and toward policies that add, repair and maintain needed infrastructure with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other appropriate entities.

**Adopted | March 2, 2020**

### Interim Resolution on the Council on Environmental Quality’s Revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations

**Issue:** The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has promulgated a proposed rulemaking that would update its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports revising National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations to standardize the qualifications for cooperating agency status, to allow for a cooperating agency to participate in the schedule planning process for NEPA analyses, to direct the lead federal agency to meet with a cooperating agency at the cooperating agency’s request and to amend the definition of cooperating agency to increase the opportunities for involvement from experts within state, local and tribal governments.

NACo supports revisions that would allow federal agencies’ local and regional offices to enter into formal agreements with state and local partners, including allowing state and local governments to conduct portions of, or provide critical data for, a NEPA analysis. NACo recommends that federal agencies work with state and local officials to ensure proposed actions and categorical exclusions are consistent with state and local infrastructure development and land management plans by expanding and mandating reviews for federal agencies with counties and considering the input of all affected parties.

NACo supports page and time limitations for environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to minimize the administrative burden that counties face as a result of the NEPA process. NACo also requests the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to clarify that any potential deleterious environmental impacts a project may cause will continue to be thoroughly analyzed as changes to NEPA implementation are developed.

**Adopted | March 2, 2020**



1                   **Interim Resolution on the Use of Targeted Grazing for Wildland Fire Management**

2  
3 **Issue:** Targeted grazing can offer an alternative method of fuel load management on our nation’s public  
4 lands to reduce the growing threat of wildland fire.

5  
6 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the federal government to  
7 establish a program to target livestock grazing toward areas at high risk of wildland fire. Such a program  
8 should compensate livestock owners for these efforts to reduce wildfire fuel loads on public lands.

9  
10 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

11  
12                   **Interim Resolution in Support of Flexibility in the Elections Section of the Secure Rural Schools**  
13                   **and Community Self-Determination Act**

14  
15 **Issue:** Changes to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) elections  
16 section in 2013 have removed flexibility for counties to decide whether to accept SRS payments or 25  
17 percent of the revenue from timber harvests off national forests within their jurisdiction and have frozen  
18 counties’ election choices as they were in 2012, even if local conditions have changed.

19  
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a return to the Secure Rural  
21 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) elections language of 2008 which allows county  
22 boards the flexibility to make local decisions based on current local conditions.

23  
24 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

25  
26                   **Interim Resolution in Support of Stopping the Annual Five Percent Drawdown of Secure Rural**  
27                   **Schools and Community Self-Determination Payments to National Forest Counties**

28  
29 **Issue:** The annual five percent drawdown of Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination  
30 Act (SRS) payments to national forest counties has not been replaced by increased timber receipts,  
31 resulting in dire financial impacts to counties, schools and local economies.

32  
33 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the Secure Rural  
34 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to remove the annual five percent drawdown and  
35 restore funding levels to those commensurate with providing mandated services.

36  
37 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

38  
39                   **Interim Resolution Supporting Increasing Timber Harvests and Forest Restoration from National**  
40                   **Forest System Lands to Maximum Sustainable Levels**

41  
42 **Issue:** Reduced timber harvests and other management activities have left 80 million acres of National  
43 Forest System (NFS) land at risk of wildfire, insect or disease infestation. This negatively affects  
44 community security, public health and economic opportunity.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on federal land agencies to use all  
2 available tools—including stewardship contracting, Good Neighbor Agreements and other collaborative  
3 efforts to increase timber harvest levels to the maximum sustainable levels to reduce the threat of wildfire  
4 and insect and disease infestation while spurring economic opportunities for public lands counties.  
5

6 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

7  
8 **Interim Resolution Prohibiting New Wilderness Designations Without the Approval of the**  
9 **Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

10  
11 **Issue:** Oftentimes wilderness designations are made without the support of the elected officials within the  
12 impacted counties.  
13

14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the prohibition of new  
15 wilderness designations without the approval of the governing bodies of the counties of jurisdiction.  
16

17 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

18  
19 **Interim Resolution Supporting No Net Increase in Public Land Ownership Without the Approval of**  
20 **the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

21  
22 **Issue:** Organizations purchase private property and donate it to federal land management agencies, thus  
23 removing it from economic production and reducing the tax base of county governments.  
24

25 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation  
26 requiring federal land management agencies to receive the approval of the governing bodies of the  
27 counties of jurisdiction in order to have a net increase in federal land ownership.  
28

29 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

30  
31 **Interim Resolution Urging the United States Secretary of the Interior and the United States**  
32 **Secretary of Agriculture to Reinstate All Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service**  
33 **Resource Advisory Committee Charters and Confirm All Nominations**  
34

35 **Issue:** The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not reinstated all Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
36 Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) charters authorized under section 309 of the Federal Land Policy  
37 Management Act (FLMPA). Furthermore, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not confirmed all the  
38 community nominations to the BLM RAC and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has not confirmed all  
39 nominations for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) RACs authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and  
40 Community Self-Determination Act (P.L. 116-94), which leaves many RACs nonfunctional due to  
41 vacancies and an inability to meet a quorum.  
42

43 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to  
44 expeditiously reinstate all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)  
45 charters and confirm all nominations to the BLM RACs as authorized under Section 309 of the Federal

1 Land Policy Management Act (FLMPA). Additionally, NACo urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to  
2 expeditiously confirm all nominations to the U.S. Forest Service RACs as authorized under Secure Rural  
3 Schools.

4  
5 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

6  
7 **Interim Resolution on Inclusion of Full Payments In-Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools and**  
8 **Community Self-Determination Act Funding in the President’s Annual Budget**

9  
10 **Issue:** The annual appropriations cycle leaves funding for Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure  
11 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) subject to potential cuts or elimination on an  
12 annual basis.

13  
14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the U.S. Department of the  
15 Interior (DOI), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Office of Management and  
16 Budget (OMB) to include proposals for full, permanent funding of Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and  
17 full funding of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) until a long-term  
18 sustainable funding solution for national forest counties is agreed to.

19  
20 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**

## TRANSPORTATION

### Interim Resolution Urging Congress to Enact Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank to Finance Urgently Needed Infrastructure Projects

**Issue:** According to the American Society of Civil Engineers and the U.S. Congress, there is a budget shortfall of over \$2 trillion needed to finance urgently needed infrastructure programs. Current budget estimates cut discretionary funding. Also, this does not include much needed programs such as broadband, passenger transit systems, high speed rail, clean water supply projects, flood control systems, energy distribution systems, ferries, fish passage barriers and power grid upgrades. Therefore, the real financing need is well over \$4 trillion. The National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) would finance projects within all regions of the U.S. In the past, the United States has employed four National Banking systems to build out the infrastructure, and the proposed new legislation follows in that successful model and tradition.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation to create a new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) system in the tradition of George Washington, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. This proposed bill has the following critical points:

1. It would create a new NIB by exchanging existing Treasury debt for preferred stock in the bank. The proposal is to raise \$500 billion, out of the \$23 trillion in Treasury debt, and put it in the bank. This would require no new federal debt.
2. The NIB would pay two percent interest above the Treasury yield to the investors, with all transactions being federally insured. The two percent would be included in the U.S. budget and not go through appropriations. This model has been used in the past, initiated by the first Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.
3. The NIB would perform as a traditional commercial bank and be able to provide financing in the form of loans. The bank would loan \$4 trillion to states, cities, counties, authorities and multi-state entities to address the infrastructure crisis in the nation. Loans would be long term, at Treasury rates and for infrastructure projects only.
4. There would be a Board of Directors composed of mainly engineers and infrastructure experts, with state, local and county officials with experience in infrastructure construction to assist in the implementation of the projects. The bank would report all banking transactions to Congress on a regular basis.
5. The NIB would create 25+ million new high paying jobs, which would increase the tax base and increase the productivity of the entire economy. Previous such entities have increased real GDP by 3-5 percent per year, and payback multiples have been anywhere from 2-10 times the investment.

**Adopted | March 2, 2020**

1 **Interim Resolution Directing Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to Allow Public-**  
2 **Private Partnerships for the Continued Operation of Federal Rest Areas**  
3

4 **Issue:** Deferred maintenance and budget shortfalls on federal rest areas have grown in recent years,  
5 causing operating deficiencies that threaten the safety of travelers and the long-term viability of rest areas.  
6 Due to federal law, state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) are not allowed to contract with private  
7 partners for the commercialization of federal-aid rest areas.  
8

9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports policies to allow public-private  
10 partnerships (P3s) on federal Rest Areas and to ensure that federal laws do not prevent rest areas and other  
11 safety initiatives along highways from flourishing that will benefit travelers nationwide and bring much-  
12 needed revenue to local economies and budget relief to state Departments of Transportation (DOTs).  
13 NACo encourages Congress to do a thorough and complete study of commercialization of federal-aid rest  
14 areas, with an emphasis on policies that maintain free and open public access to the core facilities,  
15 including parking, restrooms and drinking fountains.  
16

17 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**  
18

19 **Interim Resolution Directing Congress to Establish a Discretionary Grant Program to Fund the**  
20 **Elimination of Highway-Rail At-Grade Crossings**  
21

22 **Issue:** Collisions, fatalities, chronic traffic congestion, increased pollution, train horn noise, delayed  
23 emergency response, freight and trucking impacts and rail crossing violations are a fraction of the impacts  
24 communities, commuters and commerce face as a result of at-grade crossings between rail and passenger  
25 vehicle traffic. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, there are over 211,000 active highway-  
26 rail grade crossings in America. Left unaddressed, issues at these crossings will continue to grow resulting  
27 in compromised safety and negative economic impacts for Americans across the country.  
28

29 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to create a new  
30 discretionary grant program providing federal funding opportunities for counties desiring to eliminate at  
31 grade rail crossings.  
32

33 **Adopted | March 2, 2020**