



Policy Resolutions and Platform Changes

Adopted July 15, 2019



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1 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **PLATFORM CHANGES**

4
5 **Platform Change to Section III. Rural Infrastructure, Subsection B. Transportation**

6
7 **III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

8
9 **B. Transportation:** Additionally, many counties have to close bridges when they become unsafe
10 and cannot afford to rebuild them. The quality of roads and bridges is declining in many rural areas
11 due to lack of funding. In particular, rural counties are increasingly in need of federal
12 assistance for costly repairs and upgrades to farm-to-market roads – rural roads that
13 primarily serve to transport agricultural products from a farm or ranch to the marketplace.
14 Federal funding for rural roads, bridges, local transit service, and air service needs to increase
15 substantially.

16
17 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

18
19 **Platform Change to Section III. Rural Infrastructure, Subsection A. Technology**

20
21 **III. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

22
23 **A. Technology:** Advanced telecommunications are critical to the economic vitality of rural
24 America. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a lack of
25 broadband infrastructure could limit the potential of rural communities to attract and retain
26 businesses and jobs, especially businesses that are dependent on electronic commerce. The
27 lack of broadband infrastructure in rural communities has severely impaired the potential of
28 rural communities to attract and retain new businesses. Increased deployment of advanced
29 technology has major implications for rural counties including improved healthcare services
30 through telemedicine, long distance education, attraction of quality economic development,
31 and improved wages and employment.

32
33 Many rural counties with broad-band service, however, may only have one provider
34 compared to typically multiple providers in urban areas. Competition for broadband is
35 especially important with regards to quality, costs and speeds of service. Having little or no
36 choice in broadband providers can cause rural users to settle for inferior/no service.

37
38 Advanced technology is a major key to closing the information gap between rural and urban
39 areas. NACo supports congressional and administrative action that hastens the deployment of
40 high-speed broadband technology in rural America. This includes additional sustained
41 funding for rural broadband deployment and support for cooperatives deploying
42 telecommunications services by leveraging and streamlining key federal programs: the
43 U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS); the Federal
44 Communications Commission (FCC) Connect America Funds (CAF); U.S. Economic

1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE**
2 **DEVELOPMENT**

3
4 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

5
6 **Resolution on FY 2020 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban**
7 **Development**

8
9 **Issue:** Support FY 2020 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development (HUD).

11
12 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the
13 following levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
14 programs in the FY 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
15 Appropriations bill: no less than \$3.8 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
16 formula funding; no less than \$1.5 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment
17 Partnerships Program (HOME); \$2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at
18 least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund
19 expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing
20 Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts; \$40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs
21 Supportive Housing (VASH) and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

22
23 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

24 **Resolution on Housing Infrastructure**

25
26
27 **Issue:** Support the inclusion of affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure
28 package.

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to include
31 affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package to provide counties with the
32 resources necessary to create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States.

33
34 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

36
37
38 **Issue:** Support the permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program in order
39 to promote community development and economic growth by attracting private investment in low-
40 income communities with high unemployment and poverty.

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

45
46 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution on Opportunity Zones**

2
3 **Issue:** Support the issuance of guidance and regulations from the U.S. Department of Treasury
4 (Treasury) on the newly-created Opportunity Zones tax benefit that prevent abuse, encourage
5 developments that provide public benefits, and protect local jurisdictions and stakeholders.
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Treasury to provide
8 guidance and regulations on the newly created Opportunity Zones tax benefit that prevent abuse,
9 encourage developments that provide public benefits and protect local jurisdictions and
10 stakeholders.
11

12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13 **Resolution on Protecting the Health and Safety of Sober Home Residents**

14
15
16 **Issue:** Local governments continue to see a proliferation of sober homes within their boundaries
17 and need additional clarity from the federal government on how they can protect the health and
18 safety of sober home residents through reasonable regulations.
19

20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department
21 of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification
22 on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local
23 governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home
24 residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.
25

26 NACo also supports federal legislation to establish patient protection and best practices for sober
27 homes.
28

29 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

30 **Resolution on Preservation and Expansion of Affordable Housing Stock**

31
32
33 **Issue:** There is need to preserve and expand the U.S. Affordable Housing Stock.
34

35 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports strategies that preserve
36 and expand the supply of housing for low- and moderate-income families. These include:
37

- 38 • The elimination of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) cap, which limits the number
39 of public housing units eligible for conversion under the RAD program to 225,000. Elimination
40 of this cap would promote access to the RAD program for more Public Housing Authorities
41 (PHAs) nationwide and create a more favorable environment to fully maximize the opportunity
42 to preserve and expand affordable housing.
43
- 44 • Increase the RAD Section 8 Project-Based rental subsidy to equal regular Section 8 Project-
45 Based rental subsidies.

- 1 • Fully fund and expand the Public Housing Resident Self-Sufficiency Programs, Family Self
2 Sufficiency (FSS), Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS), the Jobs Plus
3 Initiative, and Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration programs funded by HUD that provide
4 tools for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to promote access to opportunity for the families
5 they serve.
6
- 7 • Adequately fund HUD’s mainline programs of Section 8 vouchers and public housing.
8

9 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

10
11 **Resolution on Economic Development Administration Reauthorization**
12

13 **Issue:** Support appropriations and reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic
14 Development Administration.
15

16 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Congress to
17 appropriate funding and reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development
18 Administration (EDA) as follows:
19

- 20 • Provide at least \$304 million in appropriations annually for EDA to support economic
21 assistance programs.
- 22 • Focus on EDA’s core infrastructure and economic adjustment programs – public works,
23 economic adjustment assistance and partnership planning. Congress should also authorize
24 additional funding investments for special initiatives so as not to steer funding away from
25 EDA core programs.
- 26 • Encourage regional collaboration by rewarding and incentivizing local governments,
27 businesses and communities to participate in the Comprehensive Economic Development
28 Strategy (CEDS) process. The CEDS process brings together stakeholders to develop
29 regional strategies and goals.
- 30 • Elevate EDA’s role as an integrator of federal economic development planning programs
31 and formalize EDA’s role as the federal government’s lead integrator for economic
32 development and central facilitator for interagency collaboration and resource integration.
- 33 • Expand EDA Disaster and Recovery Relief eligibility. EDA has a significant role to play
34 in post-disaster relief and long-term recovery assistance for impacted communities. In
35 areas where a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Stafford Act, EDA
36 grant recipients should be eligible for up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.
- 37 • Strengthen EDA’s National Technical Assistance program for small and distressed rural
38 communities to allow greater access and leveraging of federal, state, local and regional
39 economic development programs.
40

41 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

42
43 **Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce**
44

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

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the
2 administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that provide improved and efficient
3 legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local
4 economies and maintain the area standard industry wages for the local marketplace.
5

6 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

7
8 **Resolution on FY 2020 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**
9 **(WIOA)**

10
11 **Issue:** Support FY 2020 appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
12

13 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide
14 adequate resources for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and fund
15 the Title I, Title II and III accounts at the levels authorized and listed below:
16

17 Title I – U.S. Department of Labor

- 18 • \$861.1 million for Adult Employment and Training Services, \$922.2 million for the Youth
19 Activities and \$1.37 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services
20

21 Title II – U.S. Department of Education

- 22 • \$649.287 million for Adult Education
23

24 Title III – Wagner Peyser Employment Services

- 25 • \$666.413 million for Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) – current-year levels to
26 give states the additional resources they need to provide WIOA’s intensive reemployment
27 services.
28

29 In addition, NACo supports only a WIOA formula allocation funding approach. NACo supports
30 local control and investment at the county and municipality level and rejects any mechanism that
31 gives states more authority than WIOA intends.
32

33 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

34
35 **Resolution on Streamlining State Licensing Procedures for Military Spouses**
36

37 **Issue:** The men and women who serve in uniform and their families experience hardships
38 following a move when seeking employment due to licensing procedures.
39

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

1 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

2
3 **Resolution on Federal Support to Address Unsheltered Homelessness**

4
5 **Issue:** Federal support to address increases in the number of unsheltered homeless persons and
6 families should reflect current and anticipated need.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports increased federal support
9 to address surges in the number of persons and families who are unsheltered and experiencing
10 homelessness.

11
12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution on Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for Federal**
15 **Housing Benefits**

16
17 **Issue:** Immigrants' use of federal housing benefits and the impact of proposed changes to
18 eligibility for certain immigrant families and on county government costs.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes specific regulatory
21 changes proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that would
22 lead to increases in housing instability and homelessness for some immigrant families receiving
23 federally subsidized housing and shift federal costs and administrative burdens to counties.

24
25 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

26
27
28 **Resolution Supporting a Federal Study to Examine Lost Recording Fee Revenues**
29 **Due to the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS)**

30
31 **Issue:** The Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS) has resulted in lost recording
32 revenues fees for counties.

33
34 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending federal law
35 ([12 U.S.C. § 4514a](#)) to require the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency ([FHFA](#)) to
36 report annually to Congress on the amount of public recording fees not collected due to property
37 transaction practices occurring through Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS).

38
39 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

40
41 **Resolution on Leveraging the Combination of the Investing in Opportunity Act and**
42 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for Local Prosperity**

43
44 **Issue:** The purpose of the Investing in Opportunity Act is to incentivize private investment in low-
45 income census tracts. Yet, many believe that this legislation may not actually benefit the people
46 living within Opportunity Zones and may instead cause greater regional inequality.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the Internal Revenue
2 Service (IRS) to amend the proposed Investing in Opportunity Act regulations to allow a business
3 to qualify as an Opportunity Zone Business with 50 percent (as opposed to 70 percent) of its
4 tangible property, owned or leased, meeting the requirements of Opportunity Zone Business
5 Property, so long as said business also employs a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6 (WIOA) program (to be certified by the business' local American Job Center on the IRS Form
7 8996).

8

9 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE**

2
3 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

4
5 **Resolution on the Impact of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on Human Health**
6 **and the Environment**

7
8 **Issue:** Addressing the potential human health and environmental threat caused by per-and
9 polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

10
11 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by the U.S.
12 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to study health and
13 environmental impacts of PFAS compounds. Additionally, as the administration moves toward
14 potential regulatory action, NACo urges the administration to work closely with state and local
15 governments throughout the rule-making process.

16
17 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

18
19 **Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs**

20
21 **Issue:** Ensuring that mitigation programs occur in the watershed or region where the impact
22 occurred.

23
24 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports and urges the U.S.
25 Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with local officials, to give preference and to use in-lieu
26 fees for compensatory mitigation in the local watershed where the fee was collected for the
27 mitigation project.

28
29 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

30
31 **Resolution Urging Congress to Provide Funding for Local Efforts to Address Coastal**
32 **Water Level Changes**

33
34 **Issue:** Addressing the threat posed by rising sea levels to the built environments of coastal
35 communities across the country.

36
37 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide
38 appropriate financial assistance and support to local governments for coastal water level changes
39 and increased storm surge related initiatives and projects that aim to develop adaptive solutions to
40 these potentially devastating events.

41
42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution in Support of Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects**

2
3 **Issue:** Allowing local governments to purchase sand from countries outside of the U.S. to replenish
4 shorelines due to beach erosion.

5
6 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports enabling the Secretary
7 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or
8 otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

9
10 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

11
12 **Resolution on EPA’s Imposition of Numeric Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations on**
13 **County Governments**

14
15 **Issue:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is imposing watershed-wide water
16 quality standards on all localities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which will have
17 implications on other counties across the nation when such standards are imposed in other
18 watersheds.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes EPA’s imposition of
21 localized numeric water quality-based effluent limitations or area pollution targets. NACo opposes
22 any provisions of any watershed-wide strategy that penalizes county governments by withdrawing
23 current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management or similar requirements
24 on localities without providing sufficient resources to achieve water quality objectives.

25
26 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

27
28 **Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Invest in Transboundary Water and Sewage**
29 **Infrastructure Along United States/International Borders**

30
31 **Issue:** Sufficient to construct water and sewage infrastructure improvements along
32 U.S./international borders.

33
34 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to authorize and
35 appropriate funding for projects identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
36 and other appropriate federal agencies, that would address transboundary sewage or contaminated
37 water flows that occur along United States/international borders.

38
39 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

40
41 **Resolution to Revise the Process to Assess Benefits of Federally Funded Water**
42 **Infrastructure Projects**

43
44 **Issue:** The process for conducting cost-benefit analyses for flood control projects does not
45 properly acknowledge the value of agricultural land or socio-economic factors.

1
2 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Army Corps of
3 Engineers (Army Corps) and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to add
4 a quantitative indexed value to life-safety, agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding,
5 protection of low-income communities and environmental benefits to determine the benefit of
6 federal investments in flood control projects.

7
8 Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize the Army Corps to implement the 2013
9 Principles, Requirements and Guidelines to allow rural communities to fairly compete for federal
10 funding by considering non-population-based criteria for water projects.

11
12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution on Federal Government Related Water Control Infrastructure Drawdowns**
15 **Before Flooding Events**

16
17 **Issue:** A resolution urging federal agencies to enact operating procedures consistent with its
18 mission and design to reduce downstream flooding from imminent stormwater events.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Energy
21 Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to revise federal
22 guidelines in coordination with local governing authorities that operate water control projects to
23 reduce downstream stormwater events.

24
25 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

26
27 **Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention and Mitigation**

28
29 **Issue:** Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) are some of
30 the most scientifically complex and economically damaging issues challenging our ability to
31 safeguard the health of our nation's aquatic ecosystems. Almost every state in the U.S. now
32 experiences some kind of HAB event and the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has
33 increased 30-fold since the 1960s with over 300 aquatic life systems now impacted.

34
35 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the renewal of the
36 Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the U.S.
37 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with other federal agencies to identify
38 nutrient reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.

39
40 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

41
42 **Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act**

43
44 **Issue:** Coral reefs in Florida and throughout the United States and its territories are critically
45 threatened due to increasing global and local stressors. In particular, the Florida Reef Tract, North
46 America's only coral barrier reef, is currently facing an unprecedented coral disease outbreak.

1 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation
2 Reauthorization Act of 2000. Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize and appropriate
3 additional annual funding dedicated to improving the health of the nation’s coral reefs.
4

5 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

6
7 **Resolution Requesting the U.S. Department of Energy Rescind or Revise Order 140.1 to**
8 **Remove Restrictions on the Department of Energy’s Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety**
9 **Board**

10
11 **Issue:** Rule change at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) impacts Defense Nuclear Facilities
12 Safety Board’s (DNFSB) ability to protect workers and public health and safety.
13

14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports regulatory and/or
15 legislative efforts to rescind or substantially revise the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Order
16 140.1 to clarify the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board’s (DNSFB) full authority to protect
17 health and safety of the public and workers with full access to DOE facilities and information, as
18 directed by law and statute.
19

20 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

21
22 **Resolution on any Administration Budget Request to Eliminate Gulf of Mexico Energy**
23 **Security Act (GOMESA) Revenue Sharing Funds**

24
25 **Issue:** Amending or modifying the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to
26 redirect Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing activities and revenue sharing to the
27 U.S. Treasury and away from eligible coastal states and their counties, and parishes.
28

29 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges that Congress oppose any
30 future administration budget request to eliminate Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006
31 (GOMESA) revenue sharing with eligible states, counties, and parishes in order to redirect the
32 funds to the U.S. Treasury.
33

34 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

35
36 **Resolution in Support of Liquid Natural Gas Export Facilities Nationally**

37
38 **Issue:** Increasing liquid natural gas (LNG) infrastructure nationally will help stabilize the
39 economic impacts in communities of impact; greater utilization of LNG as a source of domestic
40 and international energy has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint and decrease air quality
41 impacts; and exporting LNG to countries politically aligned with the United States increases global
42 security.
43

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

1 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL**
2 **AFFAIRS**

3
4 **PLATFORM CHANGES**

5
6 **Platform Changes to the Sales and Use Taxes Section**

7
8 **SALES AND USE TAXES**

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

13
14 **Should Congress consider legislation related to the collection of remote sales taxes, the**
15 **legislation should:**

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

25
26 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

27
28 **Platform Changes to Sections: Elections; Election Funding; Election Security; and**
29 **Discounted Postage Rate**

30
31 **ELECTIONS**

32 **Counties administer the nation’s elections and must be an integral stakeholder in any**
33 **meaningful reform of our election process.** Counties have traditionally administered and
34 financed elections in the United States **because the vast differences in geographic and**
35 **population sizes, language needs and other local requirements necessitate differences in**
36 **elections administration. This local and disparate election administration also assists in**
37 **elections security. Therefore,** NACo opposes **any** legislation that imposes specific and
38 impractical requirements regarding equipment, procedures, and personnel responsibilities, ~~under~~
39 ~~the guise of federal election reform when said regulations directly impact the conduct of state~~
40 ~~and local elections.~~ **Further, while NACo believes that post-election audits are an integral**
41 **part of securing our elections and supports efforts to develop and assist counties in**
42 **implementing best practices, NACo opposes any legislation that requires any specific**
43 **methodologies.** NACo **Counties** additionally opposes unfunded mandates and insufficient

1 deadlines with regard to federal election reform. ~~Counties administer the nation's elections and~~
2 ~~should be included in any meaningful reform of our election process.~~ NACo Counties further
3 asserts that counties should not be held liable for state failures to comply with election
4 requirements imposed by the federal government.

5
6 NACo strongly supports the role and functions of ~~an~~ the U.S. Election Assistance Commission
7 (EAC) ~~that~~ which recognizes and focuses on the importance of rigorous testing of voting
8 equipment and brings together election technology experts and local election officials to
9 develop guidelines and standards that protect our critical infrastructure and appreciates
10 the efficiencies and cost savings of voluntary federal certification. NACo supports this process
11 and opposes any legislation that seeks to create further federal certification processes in
12 addition to the EAC certification. Further, NACo appreciates the important role the EAC
13 plays in coordinating collaborative efforts among local, state and federal government officials
14 in addressing issues associated with the field of election administration.

15 ELECTION FUNDING

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

28 ELECTION SECURITY

29
30 Counties believe secure elections are a central component of our nation. NACo supports
31 efforts by Congress to combat the cybersecurity threats that are already negatively
32 impacting public perception of the integrity of elections. Any legislation should involve
33 county election authorities in addressing these threats and include provisions requiring
34 information sharing between federal, state and local authorities.

35
36
37 NACo believes it is essential that election cybersecurity guidelines and grant administration
38 remain coordinated within the existing structure of the Election Assistance Commission
39 (EAC) rather than having a new federal entity develop potentially conflicting guidelines.
40 In general, NACo urges Congress to adhere to the following guidelines when enacting
41 election cybersecurity legislation:

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

15
16 ~~DISCOUNTED POSTAGE RATE~~ THE POSTAL SYSTEM IS A PARTNER IN
17 ELECTIONS

18 NACo supports a domestic and international mail system that supports our election system
19 and ensures that all voters, including those in the military and overseas, are able to fairly
20 and freely participate in our elections. Such a system would include high quality delivery
21 methods, tracking and notice of changes in the system to impacted local governments.

22
23 NACo **also** supports the establishment of a discounted Presort First-Class postage rate, similar
24 to that enjoyed by federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, for specified local
25 government mailings mandated by federal or state law, such as voter registrations, election
26 ballot mailings, property tax statements, summonses, and jury duty pay.

27
28 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

29
30 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

31
32 **Resolution Supporting a Complete and Accurate Census 2020 Count**

33
34 **Issue:** Supporting a complete and accurate Census 2020 Count.

35
36 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports full funding for an
37 accurate and complete count during and throughout the 2020 Census. NACo supports the forming
38 of complete count committees at the local level. NACo urges Congress to provide enhanced
39 funding to rural counties, where access to reliable internet is a challenge, in order to support a
40 complete and accurate census count in rural communities.

41
42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

2
3 **Issue:** Fire sprinklers and other interior building improvements no longer meet certain expensing
4 and depreciation qualifications.

5
6 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to correct an
7 unintentional drafting error in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA; P.L. 115-97) to allow
8 qualified improvement properties (QIPs) to be eligible for bonus and accelerated depreciation as
9 intended by the TCJA.

10
11 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

12
13 **Resolution in Support for Reauthorization of the Volunteer Responder Incentive**
14 **Protection Act**

15
16 **Issue:** Tax protections of incentives for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services
17 (EMS) personnel expired in 2010 and must be reauthorized.

18
19 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the
20 Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act of 2019 (VRIPA), which would waive federal
21 income taxes on nominal recruitment and retention incentives provided by local jurisdictions to
22 volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

23
24 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

25
26 **Resolution on Federal Tax Intercept of Unpaid Court Fees**

27
28 **Issue:** Re-introduce and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act to facilitate
29 a federal tax intercept for recovering court debt.

30
31 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to re-introduce
32 and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act.

33
34 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

35
36 **Resolution on Volunteer Driver Reimbursement Rates**

37
38 **Issue:** Ensuring mileage reimbursement rates for volunteer drivers for counties.

39
40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact H.R.
41 2072, the *Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2019*, to ensure equal mileage reimbursement
42 between the charitable and business mileage rates.

43
44 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

3
4 **Issue:** The purpose of this resolution is to urge Congress and the President to work together to
5 enact all federal budget appropriations bills by October 1 of each new fiscal year, thereby avoiding
6 continuing resolutions and government shutdowns, which create costly delays and uncertainty in
7 providing federal assistance and programs for U.S. counties and their residents.

8
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the President
10 to commit to working together to get agreement on all spending legislation by October 1 of each
11 year. This is a fundamental responsibility of both Congress and the President and should be taken
12 more seriously. Counties work hard to get their budgets approved on a timely basis and Congress
13 should do the same. Our citizens deserve no less.

14
15 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

HEALTH

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

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.

Adopted 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.

Adopted | July 15, 2019

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.

Adopted 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.

Adopted | July 15, 2019

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.

Adopted 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.

Adopted | July 15, 2019

1 **Resolution on Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Care in Treatment Centers**
2

3 **Issue:** Although substance use disorders such as opioid addiction frequently follows the onset of
4 depression, and substance use disorders such as opioid addiction frequently triggers depression
5 within as few as 30 days, our patterns of care organization and funding do not make provision for
6 a necessary linkage between mental health and substance use care.
7

8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government,
9 specifically, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health
10 Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 (CDC) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to modify grant, technical
12 assistance and service funding programs that support the development and operation of integrated
13 care in treatment centers to include provision for the integration of mental health and addiction
14 care, including care for depression and substance use disorders such as opioid addiction.
15

16 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**
17

18 **Resolution on the Importance of the ACA and Medicaid Expansion**
19

20 **Issue:** Covering over 70 million individuals, Medicaid is the country’s largest program providing
21 health coverage and health care services to the nation’s low-income population. The Affordable
22 Care Act (ACA) allowed states to expand their Medicaid programs, which provides billions of
23 federal dollars to counties for indigent health care services, behavioral health services, preventative
24 care, public health and coordinated care.
25

26 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports maintaining the
27 Medicaid program as a means-tested entitlement and further supports provisions in current law
28 that allow for expanded program eligibility and coverage standards. NACo urges Congress and the
29 administration not to repeal the Medicaid expansion. Maintaining eligibility and coverage under
30 the current program is essential to sustain the strong federal-state-local partnership that underpins
31 our nation’s health system.
32

33 **Adopted | July 15, 201**
34

35 **Resolution Regarding the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program**
36

37 **Issue:** County jails are not eligible for designation as health professional shortage areas for the
38 purpose of the National Health Service Corps.
39

40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the
41 National Health Service Corps loan repayment program and allow county and municipal jails to
42 be eligible for the program. Current law excludes county jails from being designated as health
43 professional shortage areas, and NACo urges Congress to review this designation and allow county
44 and municipal jails to be named health professional shortage areas.
45

46 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

3
4 **Issue:** Lack of sufficient funding for Alzheimer's Disease research/ other related dementias,
5 Alzheimer's community education and outreach, and resources for caregivers, family members and
6 individuals with Alzheimer's Disease/ other related dementias.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the continuous and
9 increased use of federal funding to support Alzheimer's Disease/ other related dementias research,
10 Alzheimer's community education and outreach, and resources for caregivers, family members and
11 individuals with Alzheimer's Disease/ other related dementias.

12
13 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

14
15 **Resolution on Federal Policy Changes Related to Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Benefits**

16
17 **Issue:** Changes to existing immigration policy that limits eligibility for federally funded health
18 care and public health programs could negatively impact county governments.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes specific changes to
21 existing immigration policy that would lead to increases in uncompensated care and shift federal
22 and state costs and the administrative burden to counties, including preventing access to and/or
23 penalizing immigrants for the use of federally-funded health care and public health programs
24 including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

25
26 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

27
28 **Resolution Supporting Local Efforts for Mobile Support Teams**

29
30 **Issue:** There is more support needed at the federal level for local health departments’ mobile
31 support teams, who work closely with law enforcement agencies to promote safety and emotional
32 stability when a behavioral crisis occurs.

33
34 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts at the
35 federal and state levels to fully fund and promote mobile support teams within a local health
36 department or local jurisdiction. NACo urges federal and state matching funds to maximize
37 financial support for local jurisdictions in implementing mobile support teams.

38
39 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

40
41 **Resolution on Reducing Disparities in African American Child Deaths**

42
43 **Issue:** African American children die at disproportionate rates across the United States, impacting
44 families and communities.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislative efforts
2 to fund local initiatives to reduce African American child deaths through collective impact models
3 and targeted, community-based programs to reduce risks.
4

5 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

6
7 **Resolution in Support for Funding the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs**
8 **Grants**
9

10 **Issue:** Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund their
11 EMS operations. In December 2018, Congress passed the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS
12 Needs Act (SIREN Act), as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334),
13 which restored and revised a grant program for rural EMS agencies. While the SIREN grants have
14 been authorized, Congress must provide strong appropriations for this program.
15

16 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fund the
17 Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN) grants at \$20 million for FY 2020. The
18 SIREN grants will provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to recruit personnel, procure
19 emergency medical supplies and provide emergency medical services (EMS) training classes.
20 Only public and nonprofit agencies are eligible to receive these funds.
21

22 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

23
24 **Resolution Supporting Improved Compliance through Better Regulation in Nursing Homes**
25

26 **Issue:** Better regulation is needed to support compliance, while ensuring unnecessary regulatory
27 burdens do not take precedence over care, treatment, and outcomes
28

29 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports strengthening efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
30 Services (CMS) to improve compliance through collaborative efforts with healthcare providers
31 and stakeholders to reduce administrative burdens, increase effective and efficient conformity with
32 regulations and improve the beneficiary experience by removing regulatory obstacles that diminish
33 the ability to put patients/residents first over paperwork.
34

35 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

36
37 **Resolution Supporting Better Staffing in Nursing Homes**
38

39 **Issue:** Nursing homes need adequate staffing levels to provide high quality care, safe care, person-
40 directed care, and care that is consistent with state and federal regulations.
41

42 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend federal
43 law to allow disapproval for nurse aide training programs to be discretionary rather than mandatory
44 and support the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act.
45

46 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

3
4 **Issue:** Local communities need better data and research related to kratom that will aide the
5 development of public health best practices related to the use of kratom in communities across the
6 United States.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) should urge Congress to pass
9 legislation and/or federal agency directives to fund and support efforts to research the health
10 impacts related to the use of kratom. This includes federal action steps to devote the appropriate
11 agency and staff resources to complete both: (1) a review of existing research on kratom in order
12 to provide counties and other local government jurisdictions with immediate guidance on the most
13 appropriate public health best practices related to kratom; and (2) to pursue more comprehensive
14 research on kratom that can inform longer-term public health approaches related to the use of
15 kratom.

16
17 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

18
19 **Resolution to Support Amending 42 CFR Part 2 SUD Privacy Rules to Improve Care**
20 **Coordination**

21
22 **Issue:** Need to align privacy requirements for substance use disorder (SUD) patient records with
23 those for medical care records under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
24 1996 (HIPAA) in order to improve care coordination for patients undergoing SUD treatment.

25
26 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending 42 Code of
27 Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 (Part 2) privacy provisions to improve care coordination for
28 patients undergoing treatment for SUD by aligning the privacy requirements for SUD patient
29 records as governed by Part 2 with those in HIPAA for medical care. This would permit
30 information sharing between SUD treatment providers, behavioral health providers and medical
31 care providers for the purposes of health care treatment, payment, and operations (TPO), while
32 also bolstering efforts to identify high utilizers of public services and hospital emergency
33 departments.

34
35 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2
3 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

4
5 **Resolution to Support Linking 2-1-1 Lines with Substance Use Disorder Crisis Lines**

6
7 **Issue:** 2-1-1 lines are not linked to substance use disorder crisis lines, requiring 2-1-1 to refer
8 callers to a separate crisis line.

9
10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the
11 administration to enact legislative proposals that appropriate funding to link 2-1-1 lines with
12 substance use disorder crisis lines.

13
14 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

15
16 **Resolution Urging Congress and the Administration to Maintain County Child Welfare**
17 **Flexibility and Funding**

18
19 **Issue:** In February 2018, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the Family First
20 Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The law provides new federal entitlement funding for optional
21 foster care prevention services meeting stringent best practice benchmarks and creates new federal
22 requirements relating to congregate (group home) care that would reduce federal IV-E
23 reimbursement and shift costs to states and counties. The FFPSA did not extend federal IV-E
24 waivers slated to expire on September 30, 2019.

25
26 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of
27 Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide administrative flexibility in the Family First
28 Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to minimize the anticipated cost-shifts to states and counties that
29 will occur by denying FFPSA Title IV-E eligibility to children who would remain eligible for state
30 or county-funded foster care and adoption assistance. Congress should also provide states and
31 counties with sufficient flexibility to serve and protect abused and neglected children as done
32 currently under some state laws. NACo further urges that Congress amend and/or HHS mitigate
33 the law’s proscriptive provisions intended to reduce the use of congregate care so that states and
34 counties already proceeding with similar efforts may continue to do so. Additionally, Congress
35 should extend federal IV-E waiver authority through September 30, 2024 unless comprehensive
36 child welfare finance reform that reflects NACo’s priorities is passed and implemented before
37 waivers expire.

38
39 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

40
41 **Resolution to Fully Fund and Update the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**
42 **(TANF) Program**

43
44 **Issue:** The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program expires at the end of the
45 fiscal year.

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

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

23
24 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

25
26 **Resolution to Minimize the Negative Impacts of Immigration Enforcement on Families and**
27 **Children**

28
29 **Issue:** The need to carry out enforcement of immigration law in a manner that does not increase
30 reliance on local social safety-net services or increase administrative costs for counties.

31
32 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to
33 carry out its enforcement of immigration law in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on
34 families and children and does not increase reliance on local social safety-net services or create
35 new demands and administrative costs for counties.

36
37 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

38
39 **Resolution to Maintain Current Levels of Legal Migration**

40
41 **Issue:** The health of our economy and communities and our economic growth as counties depends
42 on a robust legal immigration system.

43
44 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative or regulatory
45 proposals that at least maintain current statutory legal immigration levels and opposes any efforts
46 that would significantly reduce legal immigration to the United States.

1 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

2

3

Resolution on Early Childhood Development

4

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

6

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

12

13 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

14

Resolution Supporting Two-Generation Efforts to Reduce Poverty

15

16
17 **Issue:** Poverty is a national problem and requires a national solution. In order to combat the
18 harmful impacts of intergenerational poverty, federal, state and local partners should promote new
19 methods of addressing these issues.

20

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

27

28 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

29

Resolution to Enact the American Dream and Promise Act or Similar Legislation

30

31
32 **Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) should support the American Dream and
33 Promise Act or similar legislation.

34

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

40

41 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

2
3 **Issue:** A need for additional resources and education to prevent sexual abuse in families.

4
5 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of
6 Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Children's
7 Bureau to support programs, research and monitoring systems that prevent child abuse and neglect
8 in families while ensuring that children who are victims receive treatment and care.

9
10 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

11
12 **Resolution to Support the Development of Pilot Programs for Innovative Delivery of**
13 **Federal Social Services Programs that Are Offered through Local Governments**

14
15 **Issue:** Local governments are responsible for delivering several federal health and human services
16 programs. These crucial social services programs help low-income families buy food, afford utility
17 payments, and provide job training opportunities. Local governments have separate offices spread
18 across cities and counties to deliver specific federal programs. This decentralized system is
19 oftentimes inefficient and overly complicated, leading to lower program enrollment and less
20 support for vulnerable populations.

21
22 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the
23 administration to support legislative and regulatory efforts that would provide additional resources
24 to create, support the development of, and fund pilot/demonstration programs for innovative
25 delivery of federal social services and workforce training programs that are offered through local
26 governments. Further, NACo urges that this funding would go directly to local governments,
27 which are responsible for operating programs that increase the efficiency of delivery of federal
28 social services programs through the use and adaption of technology and centralized community
29 resource centers, which allow for citizens to apply for several federal social services in a single
30 location, reducing the burden on the constituents and ensuring cost effective allocation of federal
31 resources.

32
33 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

2 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

3 **Resolution on State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)**

4
5
6
7 **Issue:** Restore full reimbursements to states, counties, and cities for the costs of housing criminal
8 aliens as provided in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322).
9

10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to appropriate
11 funding that fully reimburses states, counties and cities for the costs of housing criminal aliens.
12

13 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

14
15 **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Conduct an**
16 **Assessment and Develop an Improvement Plan on FEMA Individual Assistance Programs**

17
18 **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments impacted by disasters should be afforded a simple
19 process, clear guidelines and timely assistance to recover from a disaster.
20

21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the
22 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a study on FEMA’s Individual
23 Assistance programs to measure the simplicity, clarity and expediency of applying for assistance
24 and take appropriate actions to refine the programs based on results.
25

26 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

27
28 **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Clarify FEMA**
29 **Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Roadways and Gated Communities**

30
31 **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments that are located on private roads or within private
32 gated communities and are impacted by disasters should be provided a simple process, clear
33 guidelines and timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.
34

35 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the
36 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to clarify FEMA’s debris removal
37 reimbursement guidelines for private roadways and gated communities to simplify and expedite
38 the process.
39

40 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Coordinate**
2 **with Local Government Stakeholders on FEMA After-Action Reports**

3
4 **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments that are impacted by disasters should be provided a
5 simple process, clear guidelines and timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate with local government
9 stakeholders and residents on FEMA After-Action Reports.
10

11 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

12
13 **Resolution in Support for Deflection Initiatives**

14
15 **Issue:** Communities across the country are facing a behavioral health crisis related to substance
16 abuse and mental health. To provide resources needed to combat the devastating impacts of the
17 crisis, law enforcement agencies are implementing deflection programs. These innovative
18 programs are intended to divert non-violent individuals experiencing addiction, substance use and
19 mental health disorders from jails into community treatment programs while protecting public
20 safety and connecting individuals directly to needed services.
21

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

30 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

31
32 **Resolution on Fair Restructuring of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**
33 **Grants**

34
35 **Issue:** Consolidation or elimination of existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management
36 grants, particularly if these grants are moved to administration solely by the states, will decrease
37 local resilience and negatively impact national preparedness for disasters and emergencies of all
38 types.
39

40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) continues to oppose the complete
41 consolidation of the existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs, and
42 requests that Congress mandate that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal
43 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) actively include county Emergency Managers in
44 creating alternatives that will better address the needs of all levels of government and that does not
45 discard the advances gained through past grants. NACo asks Congress to preserve, maintain, and
46 enhance the Emergency Management Performance Grant and other all-hazard grants related to

1 disaster recovery and mitigation as fully funded programs separate from grants directed at
2 terrorism-related issues.

3
4 NACo asks that Congress works with DHS and FEMA to ensure that Homeland Security and
5 Emergency Management grant programs address realistic risks from all hazards including, but not
6 limited to, terrorism. State Administrative Agencies must make grant related prioritization
7 decisions in transparent consultation and with the consent of local governments, and Congress
8 should continue to require that no less than 80 percent of these funds be passed to local government
9 in each state based on their realistic risk.

10
11 NACo asks Congress to require DHS to maintain the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
12 specific funding to at least 35 urban areas at greatest risk of disastrous event from all hazards
13 including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism. In light of the significant populations, density,
14 infrastructure and economic drivers of these areas and the fact that the populations of large urban
15 counties and cities are often least able to financially address these risks without federal assistance.
16 The UASI program should remain jointly administered by the State Administrative Agency and
17 the existing UASI organizational units and continue to require that no less than 80 percent of these
18 funds be passed through to the Urban Areas. NACo will work with Congress and the other
19 stakeholders to prepare updated legislative language to accomplish these goals and to address
20 realistic risk parameters in addition to core urban areas.

21
22 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

23
24 **Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the**
25 **Implementation of Emergency Management Strategic Goals**

26
27 **Issue:** In 2018 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a new five-year
28 strategy for the agency. As part of that strategy, FEMA set forth a new concept for coping with the
29 rising cost of major disasters and emergencies and the limited capacity of the agency to adequately
30 manage all emergencies.

31
32 The keystone of this new strategic approach is that FEMA will oversee major emergencies and
33 disasters in a new way, which is federally funded, state managed and locally executed. The FEMA
34 strategy document does not, however, detail any partnership between FEMA and local government
35 in the policy, prevention, planning, response, and mitigation and recovery realms.

36
37 In the aftermath of changes to FEMA leadership, NACo believes that it is critically important that
38 the agency continue to involve local government in the development and implementation of policy
39 and procedures to implement strategic goals, and to enact such procedures that will clarify and
40 simplify the local role in national emergency management.

41
42 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary
43 of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the
44 development, analysis and implementation of emergency management policy and procedures in
45 the United States to ensure that “state management” of emergencies and disasters is carried out
46 with transparency and due attention to the needs of local government. NACo also urges Congress

1 to ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute
2 appropriate emergency management activities in the counties.

3
4 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

5
6 **Resolution Supporting Inflationary Increase to the Emergency Management Performance**
7 **Grant**

8
9 **Issue:** The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant
10 currently extant, and the most demonstrably successful Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
11 grant program for local governments. NACo has long supported the EMPG program. For nearly a
12 decade, the EMPG program has remained steady at \$350,000,000 per year while inflationary costs
13 have risen, eroding the fund. The National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) and the
14 International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) are working with Congress in light of
15 the new spending caps to increase the EMPG funding by at least 5 percent to account for inflation.
16 In 2018, the House recommended a one-time increase to the EMPG.

17
18 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests that Congress provide
19 for an inflationary increase in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

20
21 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

22
23 **Resolution Supporting the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program**

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

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

39
40 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

41
42 **Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the**
43 **Implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)**

44
45 **Issue:** On October 5, 2018, President Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)
46 of 2018 into law as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018. These

1 reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility for disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce
2 the complexity of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and build the nation’s
3 capacity for the next catastrophic event.

4
5 The law contains approximately 50 provisions that require FEMA policy or regulation changes for
6 full implementation, as they amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
7 Assistance Act. It touches multiple funding programs and responsible federal agencies but includes
8 major changes to processes and grant funding managed primarily by FEMA. Through the DRRA,
9 Congress provides greater flexibility for applicants to build what they need rather than simply
10 restore or replace what was damaged. It also mandates financial support for greater resiliency in
11 rebuilding and mitigation and aims to improve expediency of the project process and dispute
12 resolution.

13
14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary
15 of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the
16 continuing development, analysis and final implementation of the DRRA. NACo also urges that
17 Congress ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to
18 execute appropriate emergency management activities in the counties as a result of any new policies
19 or procedures required due to DRRA changes implemented by FEMA.

20
21 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

22
23 **Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Reduce Unnecessary Burdens on Public**
24 **Assistance to Counties Following Presidential Declarations**

25
26 **Issue:** Following approval of post-disaster recovery projects, FEMA’s inconsistent processes,
27 personnel and exceptionally burdensome paperwork result in unreasonable delays in
28 reimbursement of Public Assistance costs.

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Secretary
31 of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA follows through on its stated strategic goal to reduce
32 the complexity of FEMA, particularly in the case of Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement.

33
34 Specifically, NACo asks that Congress requires FEMA to:

- 35 • Address bureaucratic obstacles in the PA process;
- 36 • Reduce the complexity of compliance requirements and processes in the PA process;
- 37 • Eliminate inconsistent guidance, training, experience and accountability for FEMA field;
38 operations and staff assigned to Public Assistance and other roles;
- 39 • Streamline the oversight of disasters by adhering to their stated intent to realign FEMA so
40 that disasters are “federally supported, state managed and locally executed.”

41
42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution to Support National Standards for Emergency Management Programs and the**
2 **Emergency Management Accreditation Program**

3
4 **Issue:** Since 2001 Congress has sought metrics for understanding the capabilities and capacities
5 of local government to respond to, and be resilient in the face of, terrorism and other emergencies
6 and disasters. NACo recognizes that the capacities and resources of county programs for
7 emergency management will always vary. However, NACo has long invested time and effort into
8 the development and maintenance of national standards for county emergency management
9 programs through involvement with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program
10 Commission and the Emergency Management Standard.

11
12 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the use of the Emergency
13 Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Emergency Management Standard administered
14 through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program as the national standard for
15 assessment of the capability of county emergency management programs. Additionally, NACo
16 supports the current processes and procedures the EMAP Commission uses to update and evaluate
17 the Standard. The Standard should be free from requirements not supported in the ANSI standard
18 setting guidelines or the EMAP Commission management process.

19
20 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

21
22 **Resolution in Support of Amending U.S. Code Title 16. CONSERVATION Chapter 12.**
23 **FEDERAL REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POWER, Subchapter I.**
24 **REGULATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER POWER AND RESOURCES**
25 **Section 803. Conditions of License Generally**

26
27 **Issue:** A resolution urging the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B), to
28 include recommendations from Local agencies exercising administration over flood control in the
29 issuing of licenses for waterpower and resources.

30
31 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the United States Congress
32 to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B) as follows: (B) The recommendations of federal, state and
33 local agencies exercising administration over flood control, navigation, irrigation, recreation,
34 cultural and other relevant resources of the state in which the project is located, and the
35 recommendations (including fish and wildlife recommendations) of Indian tribes affected by the
36 project.

37
38 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

39
40 **Resolution on National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Program**
41 **Improvements**

42
43 **Issue:** Including county priorities in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges congressional committees
2 of jurisdiction to include local and state stakeholders in the process of drafting legislation for the
3 reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program that:

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

10
11 Specifically:

- 12 • **Affordability** – Limit rate increases to no more than five percent per year on any policy,
13 inclusive of any surcharges and fees, especially given potential rate increases due to
14 FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 initiative. Preserve grandfathering. Place a hard cap on annual
15 premiums of one percent of the total coverage of the property. Rates should be maintained
16 as affordable for all policy holders.
- 17 • **Mitigation** – Increase federal investment in property and community mitigation, not only
18 through loans, however; provide mitigation credits to residential property owners for
19 proven flood proofing methods, beyond elevation; oppose unfunded mandates on local
20 governments for mitigation efforts; modernize Increased Cost of Compliance to encourage
21 mitigation.
- 22 • **Mapping** – Improve transparency, use the most effective technology, and include input
23 from local governments; develop a method to pay for elevation certificates.
- 24 • **Solvency** – Further address repetitive loss properties; limit NFIP payments to Write Your
25 Own (WYO) companies; increase the pool of policyholders through enforcement and
26 expansion of the preferred risk policy; forgive the NFIP debt and reallocate interest
27 payments to mitigation and solvency.
- 28 • **Consumer Protection** – Create a policy review process; regionalize Flood Insurance
29 Advocates; amend force-placing provisions to keep policyholders in NFIP instead of a
30 surplus line.
- 31 • **Privatization** – Require private insurers to cover the entire spectrum of risk (i.e. no cherry-
32 picking of preferable policies); allow consumers that leave NFIP for the private market to
33 re-enter NFIP; ensure private insurance market development does not undermine
34 community flood mitigation through the Community Rating System.
35

36
37 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

38
39 **Resolution to Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal**
40 **Immigration Laws**

41
42 **Issue:** Maintain local control and flexibility under federal immigration laws.

43
44 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the autonomy of
45 counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of
46 public safety priorities under federal immigration laws.

1 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

PUBLIC LANDS

PLATFORM CHANGES

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.

1 NACo supports amending the Federal Mineral Leasing Act so that an additional five percent
2 from the federal portion (50 percent) of mineral lease revenue is returned to the county in which
3 the mineral was extracted, and the historic balance of the 50/50 split is restored.
4

5 NACo supports the sharing of federal leasing and rights-of-way revenues from renewable
6 energy development, forest stewardship contracts on federal lands and Good Neighbor
7 Agreements (GNAs) with county governments where those developments and contracts occur.
8 Any revenue sharing program should not negatively impact the PILT program. Receipts
9 sharing for forest stewardship contracts and GNAs should be based on the total merchantable
10 value of the products, rather than merely the net in excess of the contract amount.
11

12 **C. Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act:** NACo supports federal
13 stopgap payments to counties facing lower federal resource revenue sharing payments due
14 to substantially decreased activity in natural resource use, harvest, and extraction as a result
15 of federal regulations that have restricted or prohibited the use, harvest, and extraction of
16 the resource. NACo supports the reauthorization and enhancement of the Secure Rural
17 Schools program (PL 110-343). Reauthorization should maintain coupling between
18 payments to counties and active natural resource management, and the connection between
19 sustainable natural resource management and the stability and well-being of forest counties
20 and communities.
21

22 NACo urges Congress and federal agencies to restore responsible, multiple use and
23 sustained-yield industries on public land. These industries are necessary to provide
24 economic, social, educational, and cultural stability for resource communities. NACo
25 supports robust bridge funding to arrest catastrophic declines in resource production and
26 county revenue sharing and a restoration of active public land management.
27

28 **D. Compensation to Counties by Businesses Operating on Federal Lands:** NACo supports
29 additional payments to counties for any fees generated from any businesses—such as
30 concessionaires or enhanced-use lessees—who operate on federally owned land to compensate
31 local taxing jurisdictions equal to the property taxes that are otherwise paid by any other
32 commercial business in the county.
33

34 **FEDERAL LAND USE PLANNING**

35 **A. Current and Future Federal Land Management Agency Land Management Plan**
36 **Revisions:** Federal land management agencies shall coordinate with local government officials
37 and maintain maximum consistency with local plans and policies when conducting current and
38 future revisions of Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Forest Management Plans.
39 Counties should utilize the coordination process and/or serve as cooperating agencies in the
40 NEPA process as counties see fit and be provided meaningful opportunities for involvement
41 in the revision process from start to finish. Once land management agency plans become
42 approved management practices or policies, new agency actions should not contradict those
43 plans. Plans should provide for economic and social sustainability, emphasize multiple use
44 management and commodity production and require that federal decisions be made at the most
45 local level of the federal agency.

1 **B. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Improvement:** NACo supports the revision of
2 NEPA to strengthen the involvement of local governments in the federal decision-making
3 process, expedite project analysis and make final decisions in a timely but effective manner.
4 NACo supports requiring federal agencies to coordinate with local governments, offer
5 cooperating agency status and negotiate mutually agreeable memoranda of understanding
6 (MOU). NACo encourages increased opportunities for involvement of the public during the
7 legally mandated public comment process, including opportunities for verbal input during
8 town halls, hearings and listening sessions within or in close proximity to the impacted
9 communities and, when possible, increased time to provide written input and testimony.

10
11 **C. Endangered Species Act:** NACo recognizes the importance of the Endangered Species Act
12 (ESA) as an essential safeguard for America’s fish, wildlife and plants, and therefore supports
13 updating and improving it to better achieve its goals. NACo supports the delisting of species
14 when recovery goals are met.

15
16 NACo supports reforming the ESA to mandate that the federal government treat state and
17 county governments as equals through government-to-government coordination to decide
18 jointly with appropriate federal agencies when and how to list species, designate habitat and
19 plan and manage for species recovery and delisting.

20
21 NACo supports reforms that would require federal agencies to perform cumulative and
22 quantitative economic analyses before the designation of critical habitat that would measure
23 the effects of such a designation on all affected local governments and local stakeholders,
24 including the effects on possible uses of land, property values, employment and revenues
25 available for state and local governments. This information shall be considered as a part of
26 their decision-making process.

27
28 **D. Gateway Communities:** NACo recognizes counties as gateway communities to our nation’s
29 federal lands and that the economies and ecologies of county, state, and federal governments
30 in gateway regions are interwoven. NACo believes that diverse recreation and tourism
31 opportunities are critical to counties and their communities. Furthermore, NACo recognizes
32 that federal policies frequently drive significant impacts to gateway communities and the
33 services they provide to visitors to ensure their pleasure, safety and comfort.

34
35 Federal government shutdowns have an enormously negative impact on counties and gateway
36 communities. NACo urges land management agencies to partner with state and local
37 government to keep these facilities open and adequately staffed during federal government
38 shutdowns. Local and state governments that temporarily open and staff these facilities should
39 also have the opportunity for reimbursement by federal lands agencies.

40 **FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT**

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

44
45 **B. Public Land Acquisition and Ownership:** Acquisition or disposal of new land, conservation
46 easements and water rights by any federal agency should be subject to coordination with the
47

1 county in which the land is located, and consistent with local land use or natural resource plans.
2 Counties should be given the opportunity to participate in the development of terms and
3 conditions of any such proposal before it is carried out. Criteria for the transfer, sale or
4 acquisition of public lands and conservation easements shall include consideration of fair
5 market value, loss of tax base, coordination with appropriate counties and other governing
6 jurisdictions, preparation of appropriate environmental analyses and public values. Lands
7 acquired by the federal government shall be considered entitlement lands and subject to
8 Payments In-Lieu of Taxes compensation to the impacted local government. Additionally,
9 NACo requests that federal land management agencies adopt policies that provide real and
10 substantial consideration of historic uses in project plans and environmental documentation
11 and commit project developers to providing mitigation for their loss.
12

13 **C. Special Use Designations:** Special federal land use designations impact the long-term use and
14 status of public lands, which in turn has significant impacts on neighboring counties. The federal
15 government shall coordinate with affected state and local government as early as possible when
16 considering special land use designations. NACo supports those special use designations of
17 federal lands that are approved by county governments and supported by stakeholders in the
18 area in which the designations are proposed and are consistent with existing resource
19 management plans. There must be compliance with the requirements of the National
20 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including open public comment sessions in the impacted
21 counties. Adding private lands to wilderness and other special designation areas shall require
22 congressional approval.
23

24 NACo supports amending the Antiquities Act to require state and local government approval to
25 provide transparency and accountability in the designation of national monuments. In cases
26 where such state and local government approvals have been obtained, continued federal
27 coordination and consultation with state, county, and tribal governments and consistency with
28 their natural resource management plans should be required to the maximum extent allowed by
29 law.
30

31 NACo opposes efforts to require inventoried roadless areas to be managed in accordance with
32 the US Forest Service Roadless Area Rule issued in January of 2001. NACo supports petitions
33 of individual states to amend the Roadless Area Rule to allow state-specific management
34 guidelines for inventoried roadless areas in that given state.
35

36 NACo opposes policy and management decisions (such as Wilderness Study Area creation) that
37 allow federal agencies to manage public lands for long, undefined periods of time as wilderness
38 without congressional designations and with restrictions on the use of private lands in the
39 proximity to a Wilderness Study Area.
40

41 **D. Access:** For public lands counties and gateway communities, access is a central issue. NACo
42 supports retaining and enhancing public access to public lands for public safety, forest and
43 ecosystem health, recreation and tourism, resource extraction, research and education, and
44 private property rights.

45 Roads are the primary infrastructure for access to public lands, and public lands road systems
46 must be retained and maintained. NACo opposes road closures, road decommissioning,

1 moratoria against road building and other limiting policies and practices without coordination
2 and consistency with county natural resource plans or management policies.

3
4 NACo recognizes the importance of the system of historic roads, trails and other rights-of-way
5 across federal lands established under R.S. 2477. NACo supports legislative efforts to create a
6 clear, consistent administrative process coordinated with local government plans for confirming
7 historic rights-of-way on federal lands for qualifying roads, including but not limited to a waiver
8 of the statute of limitations regarding timely filing of such applications where qualifying roads
9 cross “reserved” land. The Administration should work cooperatively with local officials to
10 obtain administrative, judicial, and legislative recognition of county R.S. 2477 rights-of-way
11 claims on federal land. NACo opposes any federal action designed to change or diminish the
12 scope of these rights and supports shifting the burden of proof for R.S. 2477 rights-of-way
13 closures to the federal government to justify such action.

14
15 **E. Water:** NACo believes in state primacy in water resources administration, management and
16 allocation. Before any decision is made to continue drawdowns, removal or breaching of dams,
17 a full review of all the relevant scientific and socioeconomic implications of such actions should
18 be made and coordinated with affected counties. Water supplies for millions of individual
19 Americans and agricultural producers begin on federal lands, and land management policy
20 should prioritize, protect and uphold watershed health and water yield. Water rights holders
21 must be given access for maintenance and control of water structures located on public lands.

22
23 NACo supports changes in current federal policy to allow the use of mechanized equipment for
24 maintenance of dams within designated Wilderness areas and Wilderness Study Areas.

25
26 NACo urges the U.S. government to acknowledge the importance of adopting definitive Arctic
27 policies in order to protect national security and to further U.S. commerce.

28
29 **F. Domestic Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock grazing on public lands is essential to local
30 economies and is often an activity of cultural and historic significance. Livestock grazing is also
31 an important method for the management of the landscape for public safety. NACo supports the
32 enhancement of a viable rangeland livestock industry. Grazing is an excellent tool for the
33 reduction of fire fuels, control of some noxious weeds, and other, less noticeable benefits such
34 as hoof action allowing for better native seed to soil contact.

35
36 NACo supports the development and implementation of alternative grazing allotment
37 management procedures, including categorical exclusions for “no change of use permit”
38 renewals on transfers, to streamline the process and reduce costs to the taxpayer associated with
39 rangeland management decisions.

40
41 NACo expresses disapproval of civil actions to diminish public lands livestock grazing rights
42 brought against industry and federal land management agencies when final decisions are made
43 by the appropriate federal agencies after cooperative efforts to determine best land-use
44 practices.

1 NACo opposes legislative efforts to allow for the permanent retirement of grazing permits
2 through the buyout of grazing permits by non-ranching third parties. If a permit is vacated,
3 NACo supports reissuing the permit to an active grazer only.
4

5 **G. Wild Horse and Burro Management:** Wild horse and burro management on public lands is
6 an increasingly urgent environmental crisis resulting in inhumane conditions for wild horses
7 and burros that must be addressed through balanced, science-based decision-making and
8 reproductive management practices.
9

10 NACo urges support for federal land agencies in the management of wild horse and burro
11 populations to achieve appropriate management levels (AML) as authorized by federal law.
12 Further, NACo supports the sale, adoption or humane slaughter of excess animals and the
13 funding and utilization of sterilization technology and methods proven to be effective in
14 controlling herd sizes.
15

16 NACo supports legislation to give individual states exclusive authority to manage wild horses
17 and burros on federal lands, including exclusive authority to determine appropriate AMLs and
18 authority to dispose of animals that exceed AMLs.
19

20 **H. Energy and Mineral Resource Development:** Like any other permitted activity on public
21 land, energy and mineral resource development and production should be conducted in
22 coordination with impacted counties and consistent with local natural resource plans to the
23 maximum extent allowed by law. NACo supports the development and implementation of
24 comprehensive and consistent national policies and regulations for energy and mineral
25 production on public lands. This includes conservation efficiency, exploration, and research
26 that provide for the siting, permitting, production, utilization, transmission, and delivery of
27 traditional and alternative/renewable energy and mineral resources. Every effort should be
28 made by land management agencies to reduce obstructions that cause significant project
29 delays and costs, including conducting oil, gas and mineral lease sales on all federal lands
30 categorized in their land use plans for such leasing.
31

32 NACo recognizes that U.S. energy independence requires expanded alternative and
33 renewable resources that are available on federal public lands. NACo supports the expanded
34 use of solar, wind, water, and other traditional and renewable energy resources to provide
35 secure, clean, affordable energy by utilizing the best methods available. Infrastructure for
36 renewable energy on public lands should be developed in coordination with impacted county
37 governments and after thorough analyses showing that the local economy will not be
38 negatively impacted.
39

40 When mitigation is required as a condition of mineral or energy development, NACo
41 encourages federal agencies to adopt consistent procedures that provide for mitigation other
42 than through land transfer from private to public ownership, unless supported by affected
43 counties. When such transfers are deemed the only appropriate mitigation and offsetting
44 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) will not be received, agencies must ensure that project
45 developers will continue to pay the property tax on the transferred land, or fees in lieu of taxes,
46 in perpetuity, until the land is restored to private ownership.

1 **I. Forest and Rangeland Health:** NACo supports forest health initiatives that include fuels
2 reduction, fuel breaks, and managing for diseases and pests, while maintaining the multiple
3 use mandates and utilizing the best available, peer-reviewed science. NACo also supports
4 broader use of categorical exclusions under NEPA, especially in cases of imminent threats to
5 community watersheds, to timely and effectively address the threat of catastrophic events to
6 our public forest and rangeland resources, and to allow for harvest of resources while they have
7 economic value. Federal land management agencies shall utilize an appropriate mix of
8 management practices including categorical exclusions and increased private, local and state
9 contract and partnerships for pre-fire management, effective fire suppression, and restoration
10 of federal forest and rangelands.

11
12 As a goal, NACo supports legislation directing federal forest management agencies to reduce
13 Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC 3) to a standard of FRCC 1 in all federal forests, excepts
14 designated Wilderness Areas, by the year 2050, through means of active landscape
15 management, fuels reduction and immediate post-fire restoration. Due to the increased
16 frequency and severity of wildfires caused by excessive fuel loads on federally managed public
17 lands, NACo urges Congress and the Administration to use whatever tools available to reduce
18 FRCC in a more expedited manner where possible.

19
20 **J. Cooperatively Combating the Growing Threat of Wildfire to Public Lands Counties:**
21 Wildfire season is a year-round issue for public lands counties. Wildfires destroy public lands,
22 endanger access to vital resources, decrease biodiversity, hinder economic opportunity,
23 decimate municipal watersheds, and negatively impact public health and safety. County
24 officials believe federal, state and local governments must work together to combat this
25 growing threat to communities, livelihoods and the environment. This effort must include
26 accelerated harvest and fuels reduction to levels that can be managed into the future, active
27 forest management in areas that have recent fuels treatments, post-fire recovery and restoration
28 efforts, addressing regulatory burdens, stopping frivolous lawsuits, engaging in scientifically-
29 endorsed grazing practices and reinstating closed grazing allotments, reforestation, and
30 appropriating sufficient funds to effectively combat wildfire on public lands without
31 jeopardizing other accounts.

32
33 With the severe damage and threat to municipal water systems caused by increasingly frequent
34 and destructive wildfires, NACo calls on the federal land management agencies to pursue at
35 the earliest seasonal opportunity, a region-wide emergency project to thin-cut forest vegetation
36 and clear deadfall and understory in all U.S. Forest Service lands where mapped city and town
37 watersheds exist until the threat of catastrophic wildfire to those watersheds is eliminated.

38
39 **K. Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species:** NACo calls for a well-funded, coordinated and integrated
40 management approach to noxious weed control on public lands. NACo supports an early
41 detection and rapid response approach by all agencies and an accelerated completion of all
42 environmental documentation to allow the use of all the tools needed to accomplish integrated
43 pest management NACo calls on all federal land management agencies to coordinate with
44 counties to better protect environmental resources from the threats and devastating impacts of
45 invasive species.

1 NACo supports regulations to reduce importation of plants, exotic animals and insect species
2 into the U.S. to help in the prevention of pest invasion. NACo supports state and federal
3 prohibitions on the transportation of any state or federally listed invasive species, as well as
4 efficient and effective agency action that stops other pathways of spread.
5

6 **L. Military Installations:** Recognizing the value counties and military installations bring to each
7 other and their complex and sometimes competing needs, NACo supports establishment of
8 open, consistent and long-term joint planning processes to help both communities co-exist and
9 continue to thrive together. Early engagement, close cooperation, and joint coordination of
10 community and military development plans are essential to minimize potential impacts.
11 Affected counties shall be entitled to cooperating agency status for military initiatives under
12 NEPA, while counties shall seek similar input from military installations.
13

14 **M. Recreation and Tourism:** Our public lands and historic sites draw millions of visitors each
15 year. NACo acknowledges the value of the outdoor recreation economy as a \$700 billion
16 contributor to the nation’s Gross Domestic Product, and that most of this recreation takes place
17 on federal public lands.
18

19 NACo supports the Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act to allow federal land
20 agencies to retain revenues from specific fee areas to pay for upgrades, management and
21 maintenance of Forest Service recreational areas. NACo further requests FLREA be amended
22 to allow a portion of revenues from ski area leases be retained by the U.S. Forest Service to
23 help pay for increased workload of managing ski area leases generated by recently passed
24 ‘Summer Use’ legislation.
25

26 **O. Funding for Our Public Lands Infrastructure:** NACo calls on Congress to adequately fund
27 infrastructure in its national parks, national forests, and other public lands. This includes
28 funding to support roads, bridges, trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, interpretive projects,
29 and related facilities. NACo supports increased funding for overdue capital and deferred
30 maintenance projects for public lands management agencies. NACo reminds Congress these
31 public lands management agencies provide multiple use activities including mineral extraction,
32 forest products, subsistence resources, recreation, and tourism opportunities for millions of
33 visitors and national resource users that make substantial economic impacts on our counties
34 and gateway communities. The significant federal investment in public lands infrastructure
35 over the years is at risk due to the lack of funding for needed repair and replacement projects
36 and must be recognized as a critical element in public lands management.
37

38 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

2
3 **Resolution to Repair and Maintain the Public Land Survey System**

4
5 **Issue:** The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) is in a varying degree of deterioration nationwide
6 due to the lack of resources provided to counties.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide
9 additional funding to counties to support the existing Public Land Survey System (PLSS). NACo
10 further urges the federal government to enforce existing guidelines and rules for the PLSS.

11
12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution on Amending the Recreation and Public Purposes Act**

15
16 **Issue:** Support congressional action to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to require
17 the U.S. Department of the Interior to establish a pilot program that authorizes commercial
18 recreation concessions on land patented or leased under the act.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to allow
21 counties that have federal lands within their park system the opportunity to offer concessions
22 operated by third party vendors. This would increase public recreational opportunities and
23 enjoyment of these lands operated by counties.

24
25 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

26
27 **Resolution on the Removal of Salt Cedar**

28
29 **Issue:** Support congressional action to address the permitting process and funding for the removal
30 of invasive species from many of the rivers throughout the southwest.

31
32 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislation and/or
33 regulatory policies that would allow county governments to comprehensively remove salt cedar
34 from rivers within their jurisdictions.

35
36 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

37
38 **Resolution on Amendments to Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Side B Funding -**
39 **Establishing a Minimum**

40
41 **Issue:** Counties, boroughs, townships and parishes with large federal entitlement acreage and small
42 populations have monetary caps within the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula that place
43 them in an unfavorable position in relation to the majority of all other counties.

44
45 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the Payments
46 in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula to establish a base funding to all counties by setting the per-acre

1 variable on the Alternative B to a minimum funding level adjusted by the CPI every year. In 2018,
2 this number was \$0.38 per acre. The maximum payment to counties would not be adjusted. The
3 current population threshold would remain at 50,000.
4

5 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

6
7 **Resolution Supporting Presidential Executive Order 13855 of December 21, 2018 Ordering**
8 **the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to Achieve Specific Goals in 2019 to**
9 **Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk in America’s Forests, Rangelands and**
10 **Other Public Lands**
11

12 **Issue:** Decades of amassed tree, understory and shrub growth that have placed communities,
13 homes, industry, agriculture, and water supply systems and people at serious risk for damage and
14 death from catastrophic wildfires, and following through on the specific 2019 performance goals
15 of Executive Order (EO) 13855 for fuels treatment and wood products harvesting.
16

17 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports rigorous and timely
18 accountability and performance reviews by the respective Inspector Generals (IG) of the U.S.
19 Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as the
20 Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to assess and report on the progress and performance
21 by the DOI and USDA Secretaries in meeting the specific 2019 goals of EO 13855.
22

23 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

24
25 **Resolution to Require Federal Land Management Agencies to Offset Acquisition of New**
26 **Land to Mitigate Financial Impact on Impacted Counties**
27

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

32 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact federal
33 legislation to require federal land management agencies to take into account the impact of
34 transferring private land to federal ownership on counties and their tax payers, including the ability
35 of county governments to provide necessary public services and the extent of any tax shift or loss
36 of county property tax revenues that will occur as a result of the acquisition. Federal land
37 management agencies, where possible, should be required to offset any acquisition of new land
38 with a similar relinquishment by trade or sale of public land to private ownership within the same
39 county. If additional federal land acquisitions are deemed necessary or agreed to by the impacted
40 county, such lands may be acquired without offset. In all instances, federal land management
41 agencies must coordinate with affected counties and disclose the financial impact to counties
42 reflecting the loss of tax base and land use prior to new land acquisitions taking place.
43

44 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution Supporting Increased Federal Public Lands Agency Funding**

2
3 **Issue:** Federal public land agency operating budgets have a substantial impact on county
4 economies. Proposed decreases in these budgets will hurt counties dependent on recreation for
5 jobs and revenue.

6
7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund
8 federal public lands agency budgets in order to ensure the greatest amount of recreational access
9 to federal public lands and to support gateway communities economically reliant on tourism and
10 recreation.

11
12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution Supporting Robust Remediation of Abandoned Uranium Mines as a Critical**
15 **Priority for the United States**

16
17 **Issue:** Throughout numerous counties across the nation, for example the Navajo Nation within the
18 Four Corners area, abandoned uranium mines continue to jeopardize public safety and the
19 environment. Uranium mining has resulted in elevated uranium and radon radiation levels at over
20 400 locations on the Navajo Nation.

21
22 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact
23 legislation for the aggressive treatment of abandoned uranium mines across the United States to
24 protect public health and the environment.

25
26 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

27
28 **Resolution Supporting the Use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-**
29 **Disaster Mitigation Grant Funding to Engage in Forest Thinning and Restoration**
30 **Activities on Public and Private Lands**

31
32 **Issue:** The need for adequate, robust and timely forest restoration to mitigate the threat of future
33 catastrophic crown fires and reduce the risk associated from post wildfire flooding and debris flow
34 events is critical to reducing the threat to public safety that many western forested counties
35 confront.

36
37 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to pass
38 legislation increasing appropriations for and allowing the use of Federal Emergency Management
39 Agency (FEMA) pre-disaster mitigation grant funding for forest thinning and restoration activities,
40 including using FEMA flood mitigation assistance for forest restoration to reduce the threat of
41 catastrophic fire, post wildfire flooding and debris flows.

42
43 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

3
4 **Issue:** The wood products industry is a valued partner in restoring our forests and reducing the
5 threat of catastrophic wildfire. Without a viable wood products industry that can consume the
6 forest products that are removed from the forest through various restoration activities, communities
7 will continue to face an elevated threat of catastrophic wildfire.

8
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal funding to
10 promote and expedite the building of the private wood products industry in regions with low to
11 no-value trees to allow consumption of forest products, including biomass as a pathway to forest
12 restoration and reduction of the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

13
14 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

15
16 **Resolution Urging Congress to Support the Return of 40 Percent of Federal Mineral Lease**
17 **Revenue to the County in Which It Was Generated**

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

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

26
27 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

28
29 **Resolution Urging That U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Policies Include Counts of Utah**
30 **Prairie Dogs and Other Threatened and Endangered Species on Private and State Trust**
31 **Lands as Well as Federal Lands for the Purpose of Measuring the Success of Species**
32 **Recovery Efforts**

33
34 **Issue:** Including inventory counts of recovering Utah Prairie Dogs and other recovering
35 Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species.

36
37 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service (USFWS) to modify its policies to include the counting of Utah Prairie Dogs and other
39 recovering threatened and endangered wildlife on private lands and state trust lands as well as
40 federal public lands for the purpose of measuring the success of species recovery efforts.

41
42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution Urging the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to**
2 **Allow Permitless Gathering of Wood Products from Areas Where Those Products are**
3 **Already Planned for Controlled Burn, Slashing, Chipping and Other Treatments**
4

5 **Issue:** Permitless gathering of wood products by the public off of Forest Service and the Bureau
6 of Land Management (BLM) lands, before the agencies destroy those wood products in a planned
7 treatment project.
8

9 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management
10 (BLM) to give members of the public notice and opportunity for permitless gathering and private
11 or commercial use of wood products from areas where the agencies are planning controlled burn,
12 slashing, chipping, bull hogging and similar destructive treatments. This permitless gathering of
13 wood products by members of the public would occur during an announced window of time after
14 agency final approval of the treatment project but before the project is actually carried out.
15

16 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**
17

18 **Resolution Calling on the U.S. Forest Service to Timely Increase Active Animal Unit**
19 **Months (AUMs) on Grazing Allotments That Have Undergone Vegetative Treatments or**
20 **Undergone Conversions Between Cattle and Sheep**
21

22 **Issue:** Forest Service’s refusal in many cases to update and increase grazing allotment active
23 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) following vegetative management projects or following the
24 conversion of approved grazing animals between sheep and cattle.
25

26 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the U.S. Forest Service to timely update and increase active Animal
27 Unit Months (AUMs) on grazing allotments that have undergone vegetative management
28 treatments of any kind, or that have undergone a conversion of approved grazing animals from
29 sheep to cattle or from cattle to sheep, in order to update, reflect and implement the Active AUM
30 carrying capacity of those allotments for the operator. If any studies and reports are necessary,
31 such as occupancy studies or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related studies, then the
32 Forest Service should commence those studies immediately after the vegetation project or
33 conversion in question has been completed. NACo also urges the U.S. Forest Service to include
34 grazing and Active AUM impact analyses within NEPA and other environmental studies
35 conducted before vegetative treatments.
36

37 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**
38

39 **Resolution Urging the U.S. Forest Service to Address its Backlog of Needed Restorations**
40 **and Replacements of Aging and Deteriorating Grazing Infrastructure**
41

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

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

7
8 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

9
10 **Resolution Urging the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Follow Federal Land Policy**
11 **Management Act (FLPMA) and Place Maximum Feasible Reliance on the Local County**
12 **Sheriff for all the BLM’s Law Enforcement Needs, Before Deploying BLM Law**
13 **Enforcement Officers, or in the Alternative Urging Congress to Abolish the BLM’s Law**
14 **Enforcement Program If the BLM Will Not Follow FLPMA’s Direction**
15

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

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges all The Bureau of Land
22 Management (BLM) field offices, district offices and state offices to follow the Federal Land
23 Policy Management Act’s (FLPMA) direction in 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to achieve maximum
24 feasible reliance upon willing and available local law enforcement officials in enforcing federal
25 land management laws and regulations, paying fair amounts for available sheriff services pursuant
26 to contracts entered into for those services, before the BLM deploys its own law enforcement
27 officers. If the BLM refuses to follow FLPMA’s direction in this regard, then NACo urges
28 Congress to amend 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to abolish the BLM law enforcement program altogether
29 and require the BLM to turn to County sheriffs for all law enforcement assistance pursuant to fair
30 contracts to pay for sheriff services.

31
32 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

33
34 **Resolution Urging Congress to Prevent the Establishment of a National Monument without**
35 **the Affected State and County’s Approval.**
36

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

40
41 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports congressional legislation
42 modifying the Antiquities Act to prevent designating a national monument without the affected
43 state and county’s approval.
44

45 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

5 **Issue:** The President’s authority to act on December 4, 2017 under the Antiquities Act to modify
6 and reduce the boundaries and size of one national monument in southern Utah, over a million
7 acres in size, and to order a new management plan for the reduced monument, done at the behest
8 of the state and county wherein the national monument is located.
9

10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports, in light of the unified
11 support that came from the government leaders of the affected state, the county wherein the
12 monument is located, as well as the state’s congressional delegation, the actions and proclamation
13 of the president on December 4, 2017 to modify and reduce the boundaries and size of the Grand
14 Staircase-Escalante National Monument, designated in 1996, under the authority of the Antiquities
15 Act that requires any reservation of land as part of a national monument be confined to the smallest
16 area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects of historic or scientific interest
17 to be protected, and to order the issuance of a new management plan for the reduced monuments.
18

19 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**
20

21 **Resolution on the Council of Environmental Quality’s Revisions to the National**
22 **Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations**
23

24 **Issue:** The Council of Environmental Quality (“CEQ”) is in the process of updating its National
25 Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) implementing regulations.
26

27 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports revising NEPA
28 implementing regulations to require federal agencies to regularly provide meaningful opportunities
29 for states and counties to be involved in the NEPA process for planning and projects on federal
30 lands that may affect the economy, society and culture of constituents. NACo asks that the CEQ
31 work closely with state and local governments to revise the NEPA regulations.
32

33 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**
34

35 **Resolution Supporting a Coordinated Effort Between Federal, State and County Officials**
36 **to Eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an Invasive Species Plaguing the**
37 **Mid-Atlantic States**
38

39 **Issue:** The spotted lanternfly was accidentally introduced to Berks County, Pennsylvania in
40 September 2014 through an international shipment from Asia. Since then, the invasive species has
41 caused significant agricultural, environmental and economic damage, especially harming the grape
42 industry and other businesses in the Mid-Atlantic United States. Because the spotted lanternfly is
43 attracted to and takes nourishment from the “Tree of Heaven” (*Ailanthus*) in order to procreate –
44 an invasive plant found in nearly 90 percent of the United States—most of the nation is threatened
45 by this invasive insect.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a coordinated effort
2 between the federal, state and local governments to eradicate the spotted lanternfly, an invasive
3 species that targets important agricultural and forest commodities as well as quality of life issues.
4 NACo also calls on the federal government to provide significant financial resources to assist the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and county governments in combating the spread of this invasive
6 species.

7
8 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

9
10 **Resolution Urging Congress to Amend and Update the Endangered Species Act of 1973**

11
12 **Issue:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 has not been significantly modified in 40 years.

13
14 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Congress of the United
15 States to amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to reflect its intended purpose "to protect
16 endangered species and the ecosystems on which they depend" and to ensure that the rights of
17 people are also protected.

18
19 The ESA needs to be amended in the following manner:

- 20 1. Favor decisions to list plant or animal species as threatened or endangered (T&E listing
21 decisions) that are made through best available science with increased transparency and
22 timelines for decisions.
- 23 2. In states where the proposed Federal land use plan amendment and the state species
24 management plan are inconsistent, postpone T&E listing decisions for a period of at least
25 six years or until the plans become consistent.
- 26 3. Encourage or direct the Secretary of Interior (Secretary) to share critical data, research
27 and scientific information to assist such states and counties in their conservation efforts,
- 28 4. Direct federal land management agencies to amend their land use plans to comply with
29 state and county-based conservation efforts.
- 30 5. Strengthen the influence of local participation so that local coordination processes and
31 recommended species management policies are not overridden.
- 32 6. Authorize the ESA to recognize and allow consideration of the predation of threatened or
33 endangered species by natural events (such as predator impacts, weather-related events
34 and physical health threats) as well as human activities.
- 35 7. Revise "taking" definition to protect private property rights in conformance with the
36 United States Constitution.
- 37 8. Provide full compensation to individuals for current and long-term takings. Require
38 mandatory costs-benefits analysis for all adverse socio-economic and cultural impacts on
39 the affected human population.
- 40 9. Require that the science used to make any determination be subject to independent and
41 objective third-party review.
- 42 10. Mandate that a listing of endangered species be reviewed every seven years to determine
43 if a listing is still warranted.
- 44 11. Require all parties pay their own attorney's fees involving any legal action associated
45 with the ESA.
- 46 12. Transfer critical habitat designations and recovery planning to the states.

- 1 13. Require Congress to approve a listing within one year, and if such approval is not timely
2 given, the species shall be removed from the list.
3 14. Empower and support local management solutions at the state and county level for
4 interstate species.
5 15. Prohibit ESA listings of candidate species found residing exclusively within a single
6 state.
7 16. Postpone the listing and/or federal protection of a species that has recently been
8 determined by USFWS to be threatened or endangered, and which are located in states or
9 counties that have developed and/or implemented a good faith conservation management
10 plan for said species.
11

12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps**

15
16 **Issue:** Counties, Boroughs, Townships, and Parishes with populations of under 5,000 have
17 monetary caps within the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula that place them in an
18 unfavorable position in relation to counties with populations greater than 5,000.
19

20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending the Payment
21 in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula to extend the population multipliers to include additional
22 multipliers for local governments with populations in the range of 4,000; 3,000; 2,000; and 1,000.
23 The increase in the 4,000 multipliers would have the same ratios as the difference in 50,000 and
24 40,000 population when compared to 5,000 population. The increase in the 3,000 multipliers
25 would have the same ratios as the difference in 40,000 and 30,000 population when compared to
26 4,000 population. This will continue on for counties with 1,000 and less population. All local
27 governments would have a minimum payment no less than the population cap of local
28 governments of 1,000 population.
29

30 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

31
32 **Resolution to Allow the Public and Public Entities to Comment on Wilderness**
33 **Characteristics Cataloging and Inventory by Federal Land Management Agencies**
34

35 **Issue:** Wilderness characteristics cataloging and inventory without the right of the public and
36 public entities to comment and challenge.
37

38 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes any continuing
39 wilderness characteristics inventory and cataloging by federal land management agencies without
40 input and consent of impacted county governments.
41

42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **Resolution to Cease Wilderness Characteristic Inventory in Alaska**

2
3 **Issue:** Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 still allows wilderness characteristic
4 inventory in Alaska that is not allowed in the lower 48 and Hawaii.

5
6 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports striking Section 603, 43
7 U.S.C. 1784. Lands in Alaska; Bureau of Land Management Land Reviews. [P.L. 96-487, title
8 XIII, §1320, 1980] of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

9
10 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

11
12 **Resolution Supporting the Utilization of Domestic Livestock Grazing as a Cost-Effective**
13 **and Viable Method for Hazardous Fuels Reduction Goals in Executive Order**
14 **13855, Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands and Other**
15 **Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk**

16
17 **Issue:** Allowing grazing as an acceptable form of active forest and vegetation management to
18 reduce hazardous fuel loads.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Trump Administration
21 to instruct federal land management agencies to utilize domestic livestock grazing as a cost-
22 effective and viable method of hazardous fuels reduction on public lands in the West. In
23 accordance with Executive Order 13855, counties urge the administration to require agencies to
24 reactivate all suspended non-use Animal Unit Months (AUMs) when requested by permittees,
25 unless the agencies can produce peer-reviewed, irrefutable scientific evidence that doing so would
26 be detrimental to the range. Additionally, counties recommend that all grazing permits be treated
27 as outcome-based in order to grant federal agencies greater flexibility to respond to conditions on
28 the ground.

29
30 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

31
32 **Resolution Regarding Wildland Fire Regulations and Policies**

33
34 **Issue:** Federal agencies, including the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land
35 Management (BLM), have adopted regulations, policies, and guidelines that allow lightning-
36 caused fires to burn on federal lands at all times and that permit the use of prescribed fires,
37 regardless of ignition source, on federal lands at all times. (See, e.g., Federal Wildland Fire
38 Management Policy & Program Review, December 18, 1995 and Guidance for Implementation of
39 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, February 13, 2009.)

40
41 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports greater coordination
42 between federal land management agencies and local governments in implementing wildland fire
43 suppression policies and strategies, with the understanding that a blanket, one-size-fits-all policy
44 is untenable on diverse landscapes. Federal agencies must work with local governments to
45 accomplish their (Federal agencies) land management goals, including wildfire suppression and

1 risk reduction, and ensure such efforts do not jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of local
2 residents.

3

4 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

PLATFORM CHANGES

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, ~~as counties work to~~ **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~~ **siting** 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

1 or exceed federal broadband speed definitions regardless of population or technology used.
2 NACo supports legislation and/or policy that achieves any of the following: streamlined
3 federal ROW and permitting processes for structures on lands controlled by any federal
4 agency; access to federally owned dark fiber for use by government or quasi-governmental
5 organizations; location maps and open access to broadband infrastructure that deployed with
6 public funds; creation of fair refusal of service process where the incumbent has the option to
7 provide service at the same level as a new deployment serving a high cost or underserved area
8 within 180 days or must get out of the way; development of fiber optic broadband infrastructure
9 where public funds are used; and a minimum broadband speed requirement of 25Mbps down
10 and 3Mbps up. This also includes supporting legislation that provides tax credits to
11 telecommunications providers that develop broadband in rural and underserved communities
12 and provides for broadened eligibility and additional federal agency loan authority or extension
13 of credit to telecommunications providers that deploy broadband in rural communities.
14

15 ~~In supporting expanded broadband service, where minimum broadband speeds are achieved,~~
16 ~~NACo shall maintain a neutral position on the differing technologies and policy initiatives~~
17 ~~promoted by the various elements of the communications industry that are seeking to obtain a~~
18 ~~competitive advantage in retaining or expanding market share.~~ NACo believes all levels of
19 government should work cooperatively with the private sector, nonprofits, and academia to
20 develop robust awareness, adoption, and use programs for broadband.
21

22 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

23 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

24 **Resolution Calling on Congress to Actively Engage Counties Prior to Developing 5G** 25 **Wireless Infrastructure**

26 **Issue:** As Congress works on legislation to help grow our nation’s wireless broadband
27 infrastructure, it is imperative that they engage local leaders to ensure that new wireless
28 infrastructure built on locally owned property is done so with the prior approval of the governing
29 jurisdiction, and does not preempt or limit local zoning authority.
30
31
32
33

34 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to work with
35 local officials when drafting legislation that would encourage the use of state or county owned
36 land, including public rights-of-way, to build new wireless infrastructure including fifth (5G)
37 wireless networks, to expand service to rural areas, or to promote digital equity. NACo has long
38 advocated for universal access to reliable wireline and wireless high-speed broadband
39 service – as crucial for education, employment, and economic development – and NACo further
40 urges Congress to oppose any legislative or regulatory proposals that would limit or preempt
41 local zoning authority, or the ability of local governments to charge reasonable fees for the use of
42 publicly owned land to build wireless infrastructure.
43

44 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 dedicated 911 revenue due to both states withholding funds and shifts in telecommunications
2 preferences, they must turn to general fund money.

3
4 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the
5 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt legislation or take regulatory action that
6 ensures that fees collected for local 911 services are only used to repair, replace or improve 911
7 communications technology and services at our nation’s public safety answering points or call
8 centers.

9
10 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

11
12 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Pass Legislation to Formalize the Process Through**
13 **Which Data Gathered by the TestIT App is Used to Modify the Broadband Coverage Maps**

14
15 **Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo), through efforts from NACo’s
16 Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee and the Rural Action Caucus (RAC), is
17 at the forefront of the issue of creating accurate broadband coverage maps. The current maps tend
18 to inflate the availability of service across the nation but particularly in more rural areas. These
19 maps are an important source document in the development of national broadband deployment
20 policy and the deployment of federal funds for broadband development. Having accurate coverage
21 maps is essential to the development of good federal policy on broadband deployment.

22
23 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the
24 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create a formal process by which crowd-sourced
25 data gathered by applications such as the TestIT app can be used to create new or update the
26 existing FCC broadband coverage maps. Further, NACo believes that such legislation should
27 require the FCC to test and certify the accuracy of these crowd-sourcing applications.

28
29 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

30
31 **Resolution in Support for Federal Legislation to Implement Next Generation 911**

32
33 **Issue:** There is an urgent need to implement Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems and services
34 nationwide to ensure that members of the public and first responders (i.e., 911, police, fire, EMS)
35 benefit from modern emergency communications services.

36
37 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation
38 that affirms nationwide implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) as a national imperative
39 and national priority, and provides funding to facilitate implementation across all states, U.S.
40 territories, tribal lands and the District of Columbia.

41
42 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

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

2
3 **Issue:** On February 22, 2012, President Barrack Obama signed Public Law 112-96. The law
4 requires that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) begin auctioning the public safety
5 T-Band spectrum (470-512 MHz) by February 2021 and clear all public safety operations from
6 the band within two years of auction close.

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the
9 Don’t Break up the T-Band Act of 2019 (H.R. 451), which requires the auction of the spectrum
10 and the relocation public safety incumbents from the T-Band spectrum.

11
12 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

13
14 **Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Nationwide 2-1-1 System**

15
16 **Issue:** While 2-1-1 service is available to many parts of the country, there remain gaps in
17 coverage and gaps in service levels for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal
18 resources to support the network’s 24/7 nationwide capacity that has the ability to link
19 vulnerable residents to critical services.

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the creation of a
22 nationwide 2-1-1 system to connect unconnected residents to 2-1-1 services anywhere in the
23 United States by leveraging the 240-plus 2-1-1 providers that currently cover 94 percent of the
24 population, and should be used as the non-emergency number during regional and statewide
25 disasters to connect residents to critical information and resources.

26
27 Currently 94 percent of Americans have access to a 2-1-1 service in their local communities, but
28 serious gaps in access to a 2-1-1 service remain for millions of Americans due to a lack of federal
29 resources to support the network’s 24/7 nationwide capacity. More work is needed for the 2-1-1
30 network to attain its full potential to be a nationwide resource that can strengthen families and local
31 communities. We urge our federal partners to help bridge the gap of access for Americans by
32 supporting the creation of nationwide 2-1-1 texting capability so every American can connect with
33 vital services 24/7; supporting opportunities for 2-1-1 to secure funding from federal agencies to
34 expand their current capabilities to reach unconnected communities and regions; and supporting
35 investments in 2-1-1’s disaster recovery services through partnerships with government agencies
36 like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

37
38 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

39
40 **Resolution on Preserving Local Franchise Obligations**

41
42 **Issue:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a Notice of Proposed
43 Rulemaking (05-311) that a cable operator be able to reduce its cable franchise fees by the market
44 value of franchise obligations such as services to schools and libraries and Public, Educational and
45 Governmental (PEG) Channels.

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

6
7 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

8
9 **Resolution Calling for the Federal Communications Commission to Address the Lack of**
10 **Cellular Phone Coverage for Unserved and Underserved Areas of the United States**

11
12 **Issue:** Many areas of the United States, particularly in rural areas, are either underserved or not
13 served at all by cellular phone carriers preventing residents and visitors from accessing emergency
14 services through E-911.

15
16 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal
17 Communications Commission (FCC) to direct additional funding for the build-out of additional
18 cellular communications capabilities in the unserved and underserved areas of the United States
19 through the High Cost Program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company
20 (USAC).

21
22 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

1 **TRANSPORTATION**

2
3 **PLATFORM CHANGES**

4
5 **Platform Changes to the Funding and Financing Tools Section, Subsection D. Passenger**
6 **Facility Charge (PFC)**

7
8 **Funding and Financing Tools Section**
9 **Subsection D. Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)**

10 NACo supports the continued collection of PFC fees for every boarded passenger by public
11 agencies that control commercial airports. NACo also supports efforts by Congress to lift the
12 cap on PFCs in order to provide more local control over investment decisions; relieve
13 burdens on federal taxpayers; and, increase airline competition.

14
15 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

16
17 **Platform Changes to the Highways Section, Subsection F. Trucks and Vehicle Size and**
18 **Weights**

19
20 **Highways Section**
21 **Subsection F. Trucks and Vehicle Size and Weights**

22 NACo believes adequate federal funding should be provided to compensate state and local
23 governments for any infrastructure upgrades necessary to accommodate the vehicle size, weight,
24 and configurations mandated by Congress. NACo opposes any increases in truck size or weight
25 until Congress requires a full impact analysis that any increases may have on the national
26 transportation system, including the added cost on state and local governments. NACo
27 supports full funding of these impacts by Congress and expects Congress to fund any
28 additional impacts suffered by local infrastructure in Congress’ performing of the analysis.

29 NACo also supports the continued requirement that all trucks have underride protection devices
30 and believes that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should
31 periodically review the adequacy of such regulations

32
33 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

34
35 **POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

36
37 **Resolution on Regulating Air Ambulances Under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA)**

38
39 **Issue:** Air ambulance emergency services have grown significantly in recent decades, as have their
40 cost. The average air ambulance trip can cost tens-of-thousands of dollars and patients are not
41 readily provided this information until they receive their bill. Air ambulances cannot be regulated
42 under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA), and therefore are able to charge exorbitant rates.

43
44 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports policies to remove air
45 ambulances from the definition of “Air Carrier” in the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) and to
46 ensure other federal laws do not prevent states from regulating air ambulance billing rates to

1 protect consumers from price-gouging and/or balance billing conducted by some air ambulance
2 providers. NACo encourages Congress to do a thorough and complete study of air ambulance
3 operations.

4
5 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

6
7 **Resolution Supporting Funding for the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training**
8 **(ALERT) Grant**

9
10 **Issue:** The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 (P.L. 113-235)
11 allowed the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to use money
12 recovered from prior year Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants to fund
13 the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grants. The language
14 reauthorizing the grant must be re-entered in the appropriations language every year. Funding
15 levels depend on how efficiently states use their HMEP grants. Over the past few years, states
16 have begun to utilize their funding more efficiently, leaving little money for those who are first on
17 the front line.

18
19 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to designate \$6
20 million in dedicated funds for the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT)
21 grant program, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
22 (PHMSA).

23
24 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

25
26 **Resolution Supporting a National Voluntary Registry of Persons with Invisible Disabilities**
27 **When Applying for a Government Issued Identification Document**

28
29 **Issue:** Persons with invisible disabilities drive, work and play in our society and the recognition
30 of such disabilities by law enforcement is paramount to everyone's safety.

31
32 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to
33 support a nationwide, individual state driven model that allows persons with hidden disabilities to
34 voluntarily register that they have such a disability when applying for a government issued
35 identification card and/or driver's license.

36
37 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

38
39 **Resolution Urging Federal Policy Makers to Include Support for Transit Options in Any**
40 **Upcoming Infrastructure Package and/or List of Expanded Legislative Principles**

41
42 **Issue:** Counties and local jurisdictions desire transit options to reduce traffic congestion, spur
43 economic development and job growth, and enhance regional connectivity and mobility.

1 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S.
2 Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide funding mechanisms in any proposed
3 infrastructure package, including incentives for private investment such as public-private
4 partnerships, to state and local governments for purposes of expanding, installing, and
5 maintaining transit systems; including but not limited to bus rapid transit, heavy rail, and light
6 rail systems.

7
8 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

9
10 **Resolution in Support of Direct Funding to Local Governments for the Improvement and**
11 **Maintenance of Local Roads in America within any Proposed Infrastructure Spending Bill**

12
13 **Issue:** Include direct funding for roads owned and operated by local governments to address
14 America’s rapidly deteriorating transportation network and create jobs.

15
16 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the president and Congress,
17 through any proposed infrastructure spending bill, to create dedicated funding allocated directly to
18 local governments for the improvement and maintenance of local road and bridge infrastructure in
19 America.

20
21 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

22
23 **Resolution in Support of Eliminating Regulatory Impediments for Effective Delivery of**
24 **Federal Aid Projects**

25
26 **Issue:** Federal regulatory impediments hinder the effective delivery of federal aid projects.

27
28 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the administration and
29 Congress to implement measures that would eliminate regulatory impediments on local and state
30 sponsored federal aid projects to achieve our shared goals of strengthening transportation
31 networks, improving public safety and advancing our economic competitiveness.

32
33 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

34
35 **Resolution Supporting Increased Consideration of Alternative Congestion Mitigation**
36 **Measures**

37
38 **Issue:** Federal funding for automated technologies has been focused mostly on the development
39 of driverless cars and shuttles which can enhance mobility and improve first/last-mile accessibility,
40 but have limited ability to reduce road congestion, and may increase vehicle miles traveled before
41 mitigation measures can be implemented.

42
43 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of
44 Transportation (DOT) to make road congestion mitigation a top priority by exploring,
45 implementing and funding automated shuttles and transit network systems for congestion

1 mitigation that reduces the impact of driverless vehicles on road congestion, and increases usage
2 of Automated Transit Networks (ATN) to relieve travel demand on roads.

3
4 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

5
6 **Resolution Urging Congress to Amend the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) and Hours of**
7 **Service (HOS) Final Rule to Provide an Agricultural Exemption**

8
9 **Issue:** Federal regulation mandating the use of an electronic logging device (ELD) for agricultural
10 transportation drivers does not take into account delays drivers will encounter in the process of
11 loading, unloading and transporting livestock, which could result in inhumane animal treatment,
12 devalued livestock pricing, and further economic hardship to rural counties across the United
13 States.

14
15 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend
16 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Electronic Logging Devices (ELD)
17 and Hours of Service (HOS) final rules to exempt agricultural trucking activity from this
18 regulation.

19
20 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

21
22 **Resolution to Establish NACo’s Legislative Position for the U.S. Department of**
23 **Transportation’s Budget Appropriation for FY 2020**

24
25 **Issue:** The nation’s counties rely on a strong federal-state-local partnership to successfully meet
26 the transportation and infrastructure needs of their constituents. This partnership has included the
27 federal government providing, through the annual appropriations process, funding to assist the
28 needs of local government.

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the U.S. Department of
31 Transportation (DOT) annual appropriations for FY 2020 to be maintained, at minimum, at the
32 authorized FY 2019 level, and whenever possible, be increased to assist projects that support the
33 economic output, mobility, and safety of the American people.

34
35 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**

36
37 **Resolution Directing Federal Policymakers to Improve Indian School Bus Routes**

38
39 **Issue:** Poor maintenance of dirt school bus routes on Indian reservations prevents students
40 from getting to school and contributes to the Native American absentee rate that is four times
41 that of non-Native students.

42
43 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the improvement of
44 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.

Adopted | July 15, 2019

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.

Adopted 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.

Adopted | July 15, 2019

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.

Adopted 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

1 practice of rejecting extensions to the two-year rule while Congress debates a change to current
2 law.

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4 **Adopted | July 15, 2019**