

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-146A  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Vice Chairman Shelby:

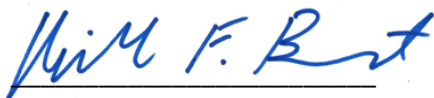
As Members of Congress representing counties with federal public lands within their boundaries, we write to request that you work to ensure the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded in fiscal year (FY) 2023.

PILT provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. It supports the many critical services that counties provide on federal public lands. Without full funding for the PILT program, counties across the nation will be unable to provide essential services such as law enforcement, education, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health to their residents and millions of visitors to our public lands.

Moving forward, we look forward to working with you to enact a fiscally responsible, long-term solution to fully fund PILT and eliminate the uncertainty that counties face each year. As cash strapped counties across the country work to address budget cuts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, full-funding and a long-term solution for PILT is essential to provide certainty that the federal government will continue to uphold its long-standing commitment to public lands counties.

We look forward to working with you and other Congressional leaders to resolve this pressing issue facing our communities by fully funding PILT in FY 2023 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,



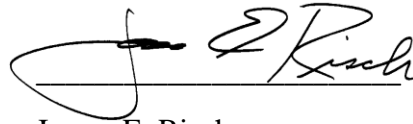
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



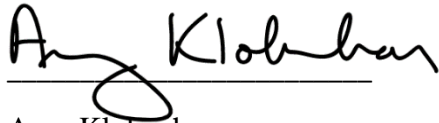
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



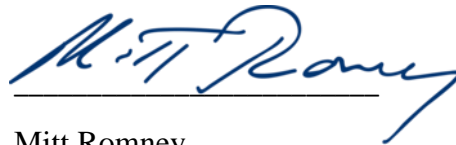
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



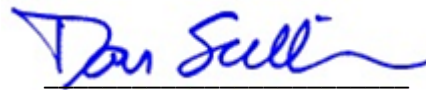
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



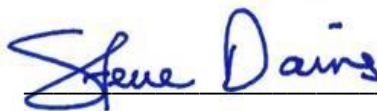
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



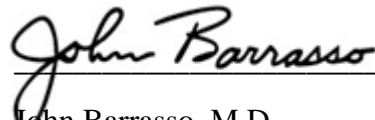
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



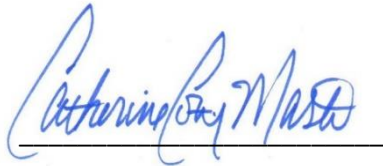
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



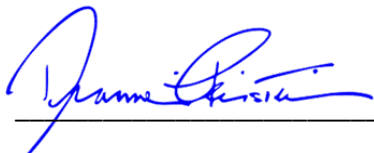
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



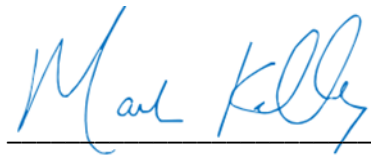
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



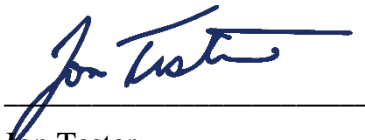
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator



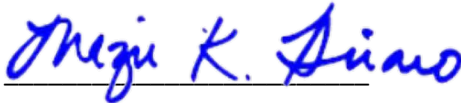
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator