

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
And Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
And Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

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) 2024.

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. 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 2024 and ensuring long-term predictable funding for this important program.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



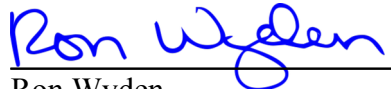
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator

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Steve Daines
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



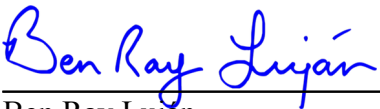
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



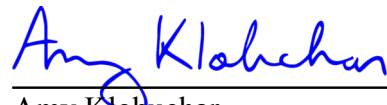
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



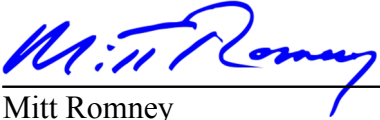
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



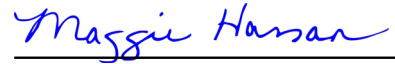
Tina Smith
United States Senator

United States Senate

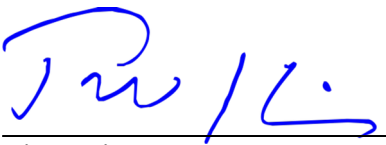
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Mitt Romney
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



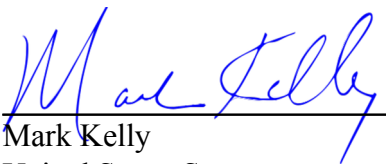
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



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Markwayne Mullin
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Bernard Sanders
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Kevin Cramer
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Mazie K. Hirono
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