Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the 114th Congress begins its work to enact the fiscal priorities of the United States, we urge you to work in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral fashion to secure full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and beyond. Without the certainty of full funding for the PILT program, counties throughout our districts and across the nation will be unable to provide our constituents with essential services such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health.

While it must be Congress' ultimate goal to enact a long-term, sustainable solution to eliminate the ongoing uncertainty counties face, full-funding in FY16 for the PILT program is essential to provide our counties with the certainty they need to plan their own 2016 budgets.

PILT provides payments to local governments in 49 states and nearly 1,900 counties to offset foregone revenue due to tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. Current discretionary appropriations for PILT are set to expire on September 30, 2015. Without congressional action, we risk severely crippling counties' ability to operate and provide essential services to our constituents.

Full funding of the PILT program will enable the federal government to meet its long-standing obligations to counties with federal land within their jurisdictions. It is imperative that we fulfill this obligation. We thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to work with you going forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

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Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

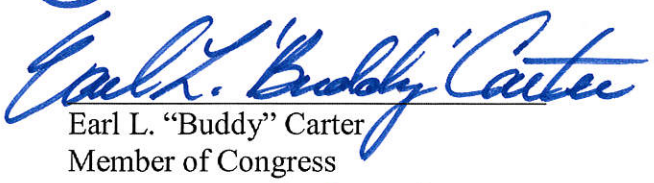
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

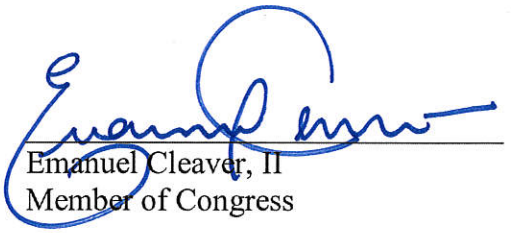
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



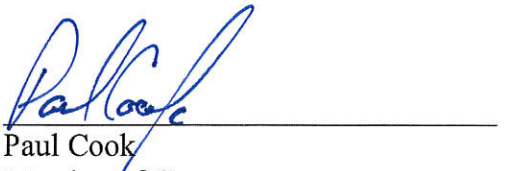
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress

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Kevin Cramer
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Carlos Curbelo
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Peter DeFazio
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Diana DeGette
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Robert J. Dold
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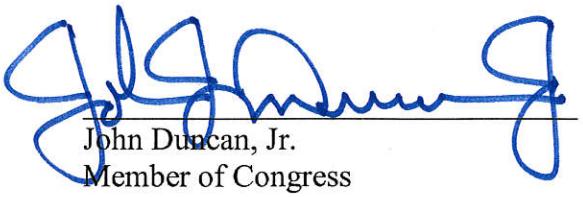
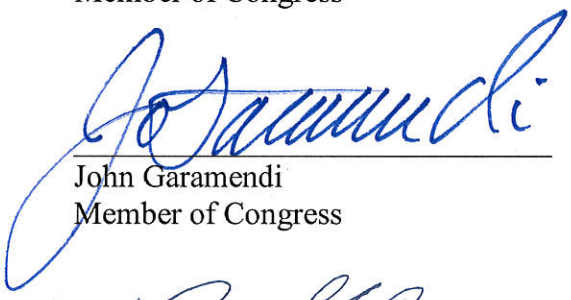
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



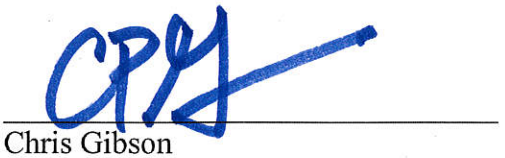
John Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



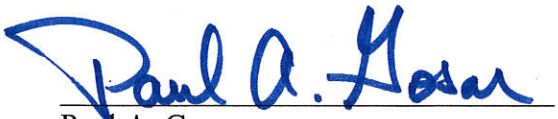
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
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Gwen Graham
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
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Cresent Hardy
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Gregg Harper
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Joe Heck
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Walter B. Jones
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Raúl R. Labrador
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Doug LaMalfa
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Doug Lamborn
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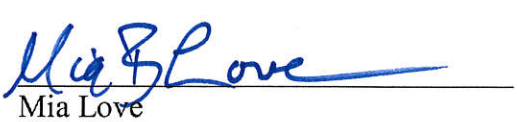
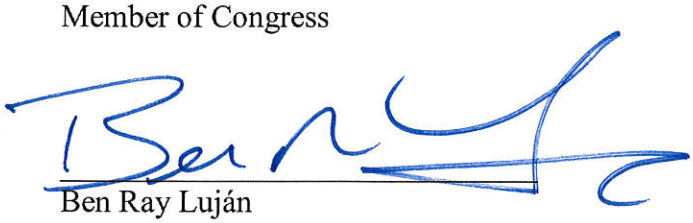
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

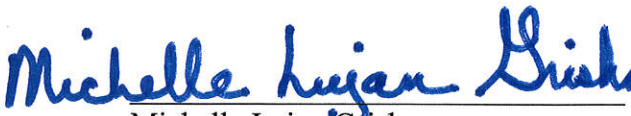
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress

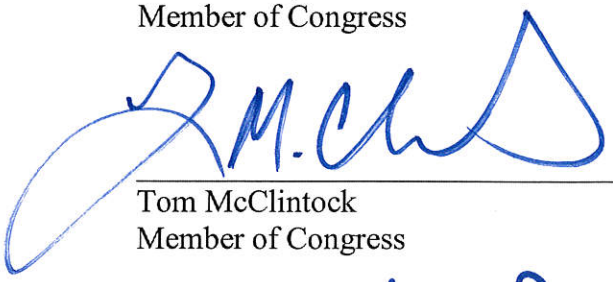


Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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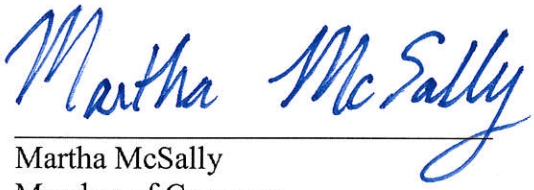
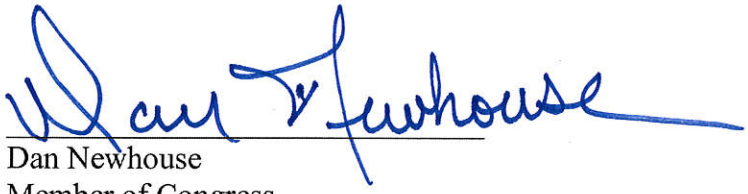


Martha McSally
Member of Congress

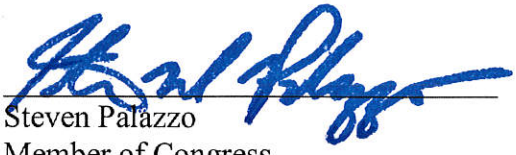
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

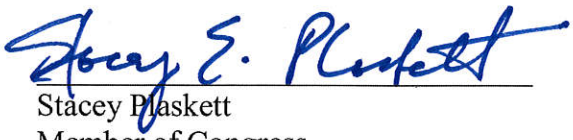


Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
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Dave Reichert
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Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
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Raul Ruiz
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John Shimkus
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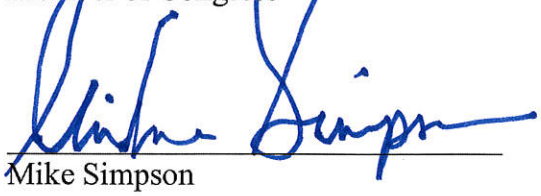
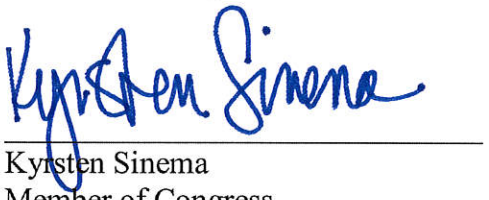
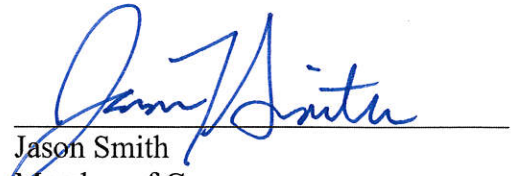


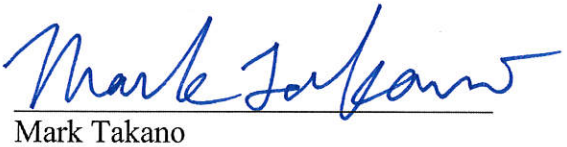
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Ken Buck
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Bennie G. Thompson
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