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