

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2014

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

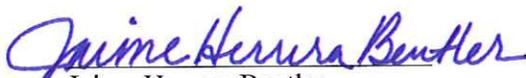
As the 113th Congress comes to an end, we urge you to work in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral fashion to secure funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) programs for fiscal year 2015. Without full funding of these programs, counties throughout our districts and across the nation will be unable to provide our constituents with essential services such as education, law enforcement, and road maintenance. While it must be our ultimate goal to enact a long-term, sustainable solution to eliminate the ongoing uncertainty our counties face, an extension and full-funding of these programs is essential to address immediate needs.

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 authorization for full PILT funding expired on September 30, 2014. Without congressional action, we risk severely crippling these counties' ability to operate.

Equally important is the funding that more than 700 forest counties and school districts receive through SRS. These payments honor the over 100 year old contract between the federal government and counties housing the 193 million acres of federal forest land. Due to extremely low productivity on our forests over the past two decades, these funds are more critical to counties' well-being than ever. SRS expired last year and must be authorized to avoid economic catastrophe in rural and timber communities across the nation.

PILT and SRS allow the federal government to meet its long-standing obligations to counties with federal land. It is imperative that we fulfill this duty. We thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to work with you going forward.

Sincerely,


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



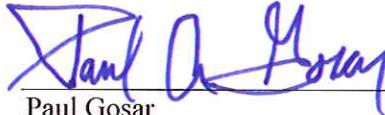
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



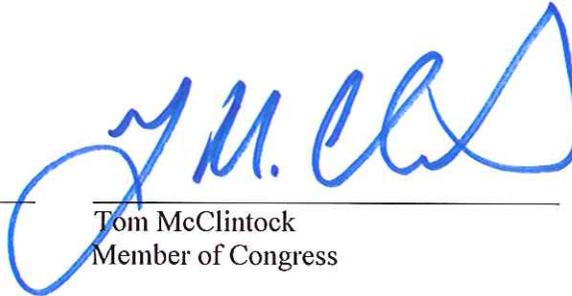
Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



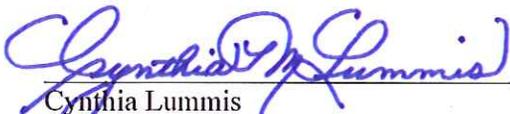
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



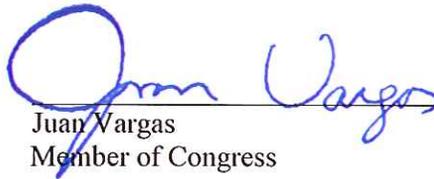
David Valadao
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



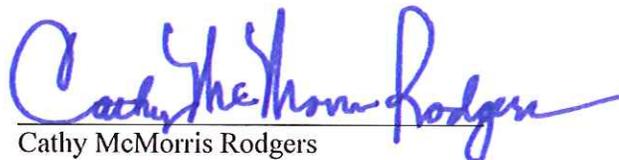
Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



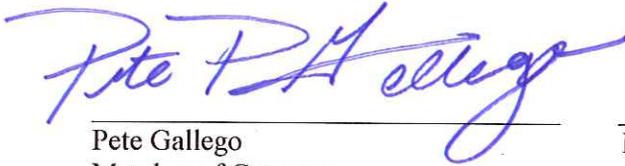
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Pete Gallego
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



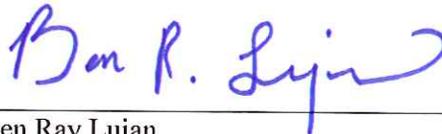
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Steve Horsford
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
Member of Congress



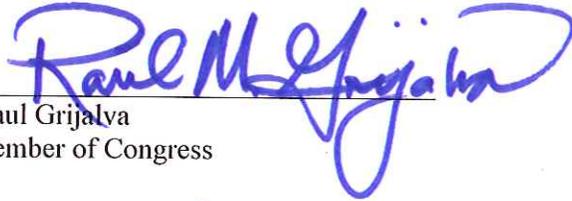
Walter B Jones
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



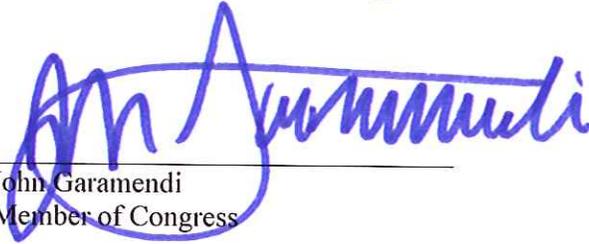
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



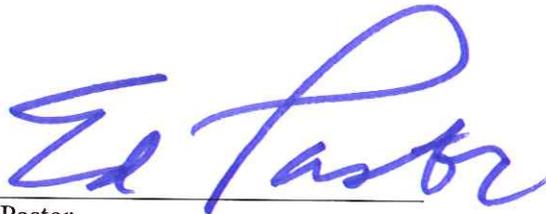
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



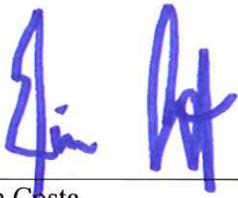
Phil Roe
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress