

1 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

4
5 **Resolution Supporting Technical Assistance for Local Foods Producers**

6
7 **Issue:** Food Safety and Local Foods

8
9 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports local food producers that sell directly to consumers and calls on the
10 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide
11 increased outreach and technical assistance to these producers to ensure that they are implementing best
12 practices in food safety.

13
14 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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16
17 **Resolution Supporting Local Food Systems in the Farm Bill**

18
19 **Issue:** Supporting local food systems

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports county development and expansion of local food systems by
22 incorporating into the Farm Bill preference for locally grown and produced foods.

23
24 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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26
27 **Resolution Opposing Cuts to USDA Rural Development Programs in FY2013**

28
29 **Issue:** Proposed cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Programs

30
31 **Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly supports USDA Rural Development programs and urges Congress and
32 the Administration to oppose further cuts to these programs in FY2013.

33
34 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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36
37 **Resolution Supporting the Regional Innovation Initiative**

38
39 **Issue:** Support growth and job creation in rural counties.

40
41 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Regional Innovation Initiative.

42
43 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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45
46 **Resolution Supporting Reauthorization of the Farm Bill and Priority for Rural Development**
47 **Programs**

48
49 **Issue:** NACo Priorities for the 2013 Farm Bill Reauthorization.

1 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports full funding of all titles in the 2013 reauthorization of the Farm Bill and
2 calls on Congress and the Administration to place particular emphasis on crafting a Farm Bill that
3 provides enhanced resources to rural development programs and strategies that promote rural prosperity.
4

5 NACo supports four key priorities in the Farm Bill reauthorization that will help rural counties revitalize
6 their economies and quality of life.
7

- 8 1) NACo supports an enhanced commitment to USDA Rural Development programs in the next
9 farm bill, especially key infrastructure and business development programs that support the
10 agricultural sector and the retention and creation of businesses.
- 11 2) NACo supports rural development strategies which focus on making USDA's investments
12 more efficient and effective by rewarding strategic regional approaches to rural development
13 that allow counties and their regional partners to focus on their local economic assets,
14 priorities and goals.
- 15 3) NACo supports enhanced funding for renewable energy development, especially programs
16 that assist local governments in their efforts to develop renewable energy and increase energy
17 efficiency.
- 18 4) NACo recognizes the need to enhance opportunities for young people to be involved in
19 agricultural enterprises and therefore supports a title in the next Farm Bill that assists in
20 developing these opportunities.
- 21 5) NACo supports Farm Bill conservation programs, especially easement programs that assist
22 counties in the preservation of natural areas and working lands.
23

24 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
25

26 **Resolution Supporting the White House Rural Council** 27

28 **Issue:** Improvement of Rural Policy.
29

30 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the intent of the White House Rural Council and pledges to work with
31 Council Chairman Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, to bring forward the perspectives of rural
32 counties to the council.
33

34 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
35

36 **Resolution Supporting the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act** 37

38 **Issue:** Support of local and regional farm and food systems.
39

40 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act (S.1773 and H.R. 3286).
41

42 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
43

44 **Resolution Supporting Enhanced Export Opportunities for Agriculture and Related Businesses** 45

46 **Issue:** Improving agricultural export opportunities
47
48
49
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1 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports federal efforts to partner with local governments, producers, and
2 businesses to expand agricultural export opportunities for U.S. producers and businesses. The U.S.
3 Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), through its programs such as the Market
4 Access Program, is one of the key federal agencies that enhances export opportunities and global food
5 security. NACo encourages FAS to partner with counties to expand links between county governments,
6 their agriculture-related businesses and foreign markets through trade missions and direct support and
7 technical assistance for local businesses.

8
9 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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11
12 **Resolution Opposing Efforts to Cut USDA Rural Development’s Salaries and Expenses**

13
14 **Issue:** Maintaining rural development services and technical assistance for rural counties

15
16 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes efforts to cut the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural
17 Development’s salaries and expenses. The agency’s staff plays a critical role as partners, funders, and
18 technical assistance providers in county-led economic development and infrastructure efforts.

19
20 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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23 **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

24
25 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

26
27 **Resolution on International Economic Development and Offshore Manufacturing**

28
29 **Issue:** Economic Development is a key issue for many counties across the nation and with high
30 unemployment still in existence, jobs are a priority. However, too many companies are moving from one
31 state to another without a net increase to the overall U.S. economy.

32
33 **Adopted Policy:** NACo would like the federal government to encourage businesses to move
34 manufacturing back to the states from offshore. This can be done through a variety of incentives. NACo is
35 open to working with the federal and county governments to find the right way to incentivize this
36 initiative.

37
38 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

39
40
41 **Resolution Supporting Reauthorization and Appropriations for the U.S. Department of**
42 **Commerce’s Economic Development Administration**

43
44 **Issue:** Appropriations and reauthorization legislation for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic
45 Development Administration (EDA).

46
47 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to support reauthorization and appropriations for the Department
48 of Commerce’s EDA to keep communities strong and economically viable at a time when our nation
49 needs it the most.

50
51 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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2
3 **Resolution on FY2014 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

4
5 **Issue:** Support FY 2014 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
6 (HUD).

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to support the following levels of funding for core Department of
9 Housing and Urban Development in the FY2014 appropriations bills: no less than \$3.3 billion in
10 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less than \$1.6 billion in formula
11 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); \$1.9 billion for Homeless Housing
12 Assistance grants, including an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care
13 rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts;
14 funding for homebuyer education; and \$275 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

15
16 In addition, NACo does not support the imposition of a funding threshold to receive CDBG formula funds
17 directly or elimination of “grandfathering” provisions which allow cities and counties to maintain their
18 entitlement status. NACo also does not support diverting CDBG formula funds to other categorical grant
19 programs.

20
21 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

22
23
24 **Resolution Supporting the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program**

25
26 **Issue:** Support changes to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

27
28 **Policy:** NACo supports full funding for, and changes to, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

29
30 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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32
33 **Resolution Supporting the Responsible Homeowner Refinancing Act**

34
35 **Issue:** Supporting the Responsible Homeowner Refinancing Act of 2013

36
37 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to pass the Responsible Homeowner Refinancing Act.

38
39 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

40
41
42 **Resolution Urging Congress to Protect the Tax-Exemption for Single-Family and Multifamily**
43 **Housing Tax Credits and New Markets Tax Credits**

44
45 **Issue:** Protecting tax-exempt single-family and multifamily housing bonds, and the authority to allocate
46 Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) and New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs).

47
48 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to protect the tax-exemption for municipal bonds, including
49 those that help finance single-family and multifamily housing, and to maintain the authority to allocate
50 LIHTCs and NMTCs.

1 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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4 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE**

5
6 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

7
8 **Resolution on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Levee Vegetation Removal Policy**

9
10 **Issue:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) levee vegetation management policy

11
12 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports modifying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' levee vegetation policy
13 to address significant local government implementation challenges, including H.R. 399, the *Levee*
14 *Vegetation Review Act of 2013* and Section 2020 of S. 601, the *Water Resources Development Act*
15 *(WRDA) of 2013*.

16
17 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

18
19
20 **Resolution on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit Program**

21
22 **Issue:** Administration of Clean Water Act (CWA) §404 Permit Program for routine maintenance.

23
24 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the federal government to improve the CWA §404 permit process by the
25 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); remove routine maintenance of human-made public flood
26 protection facilities from the §404 permit process when no endangered species habitat present; and extend
27 the (CWA) general permit term for routine maintenance from five to ten years.

28
29 This proposal does not apply when endangered species are present in the maintenance area.

30
31 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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33
34 **Resolution on the Reduction and Cleanup of Marine Debris**

35
36 **Issue:** Encourage clean-up of marine debris.

37
38 **Adopted Policy:** To address the exponentially increasing problem of marine debris, NACo:

- 39
40
- 41 • Supports continued reauthorization of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction
 - 42 Act (MDRPRA) and/or similar legislation;
 - 43 • Supports increased funding to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to
 - 44 provide additional resources for:
 - 45 • Grants to coastal counties for beach cleanup efforts;
 - 46 • Funding for derelict fishing gear removal;
 - 47 • Research on the effectiveness of off-shore clean-up methods; and
 - 48 • Federal policies that encourage states and localities to educate small business communities
 - 49 and consumers about the significant environmental harm of single-use plastic bags/bottles
 - 50 and the benefits of associated county-wide bans and additionally encouraging reuse/recycle
 - 50 policies at the local level.

1
2 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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4
5 **Resolution on Exempting Renewable Biomass Emissions from the EPA's Tailoring Rule**

6
7 **Issue:** Renewable Biomass Emissions and the Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule

8
9 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the permanent exemption of emissions from renewable biomass
10 combustion from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule" and
11 supports policy that recognizes the full carbon benefits of biomass combustion for energy consistent with
12 established and well-supported science.

13
14 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

15
16
17 **Resolution on the Keystone XL Pipeline**

18
19 **Issue:** Allowing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the Department of State and the Administration to expedite the
22 comprehensive review and submission for the approval process, the Presidential Permit for the Keystone
23 XL Pipeline and other petroleum pipeline projects.

24
25 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

26
27
28 **Resolution Opposing Delay in Issuance of Oil and Gas Drilling Permits**

29
30 **Issue:** Issuance of drilling permits

31
32 **Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly supports domestic energy production and recognizes that U.S.
33 independence from foreign oil also requires expanded alternative and renewable resources. NACo urges
34 the Administration to safely and thoughtfully review and make a final decision on oil and gas drilling
35 permits in a timely fashion.

36
37 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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39
40 **FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

41
42 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

43
44 **Resolution on the Marketplace Fairness Act**

45
46 **Issue:** Marketplace Fairness Act

47
48 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages and supports efforts to
49 permit the collection of sales and use taxes from remote sellers and endorses the Marketplace Fairness
50 Act to provide states with the ability to enforce their existing state and local sales and use tax laws.

1 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

2
3
4 **Resolution on the Single Audit Requirements**

5
6 **Issue:** Federal single audit requirements

7
8 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports efforts to increase the basic minimum requirements on local
9 governments receiving federal assistance, with an additional exception for when federal disaster
10 assistance is the reason that an entity exceeds the threshold.

11
12 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

13
14
15 **Resolution Supporting Uniform Rating System for All Securities**

16
17 **Issue:** Federal legislation ensuring uniform and accurate credit ratings of municipal bonds.

18
19 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports legislation that requires nationally recognized statistical rating
20 organizations to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures designed to apply rating
21 symbols in a consistent manner for all types of securities and money market instruments.

22
23 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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25
26 **HEALTH**

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28 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

29
30 **Resolution Supporting Development and Expansion of Parity for Mental Health and Substance Use**
31 **Disorders under the Affordable Care Act**

32
33 **Issue:** Parity for mental health medical coverage for newly-insured populations under the Affordable
34 Care Act (ACA).

35
36 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports implementation of the ACA so as to ensure access to the highest quality
37 mental health and substance use disorder services for newly-insured and existing Medicaid populations.

38
39 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

40
41
42 **Resolution on the National Conversation on Mental Health**

43
44 **Issue:** County role in the National Conversation on Mental Health.

45
46 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the goals of the Administration's effort to launch a national
47 conversation to increase understanding and awareness about mental health and to identify ways to reduce
48 stigma, and to expand coverage and improve access to mental health services, especially for young people
49 and veterans. NACo calls on the Administration to recognize counties as essential partners in these efforts
50 and for counties to be engaged and invited to the table as national and local conversations are developed
51 and implemented.

1
2 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
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4

5 **Resolution Supporting Provisions of the Affordable Care Act that Help County Safety Net and**
6 **Behavioral Health Programs**
7

8 **Issue:** Essential need to implement key features of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of
9 2010 (ACA)
10

11 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports full funding for, and implementation of, the provisions of the ACA that
12 help counties meet the service needs of low income and disabled populations. Specifically, NACo
13 supports maintaining and expanding affordable health coverage and benefits to uninsured and
14 underinsured residents who rely on county health care delivery systems – including the Medicaid
15 maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements and the scheduled Medicaid expansion. NACo also supports
16 the ACA’s provisions to improve care coordination to ensure that everyone has a medical/health home for
17 efficient, accessible and cost-effective care; to improve access to preventive care and health promotion for
18 underserved populations; and to promote the use of peer supports and counselors, together with effective
19 care coordination that spans health and social support services.
20

21 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
22
23

24 **Resolution on Responding to the Behavioral Health Needs of Our Returning Veterans**
25

26 **Issue:** Behavioral health needs of returning veterans
27

28 **Adopted Policy:** NACo will undertake steps to assure that:
29

- 30 • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) funds are made available to reimburse counties for the
31 services provided to veterans eligible for VA services and for services provided to veterans
32 awaiting determination of eligibility.
- 33 • VA funds are made available to reimburse services provided to veterans eligible for VA services
34 by public and private providers under contract with the VA.
- 35 • U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) funds are made available to reimburse counties for the
36 services provided to veterans eligible for DOD services.
- 37 • Appropriate county level data are available so that counties know how many veterans are
38 returning to their local areas.
- 39 • Appropriate legislation and guidance from the Administration are available to correct gaps and
40 deficiencies in the DOD and VA service delivery systems.
41

42 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
43
44

45 **Resolution on Essential Support for Services for Persons with Behavioral Health and**
46 **Developmental Disabilities**
47

48 **Issue:** Close coordination across health and social service programs
49

1 **Adopted Policy:** Care coordination across federal programs that serve persons with disabilities should be
2 fully maintained for current beneficiaries and expanded appropriately to serve the disability population
3 newly insured through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Social service programs, particularly affordable
4 housing and job training, should be expanded so that persons with disabilities can become and remain
5 fully independent in their home communities.

6
7 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
8
9

10 **Resolution on Nurse Home Visitation Programs**

11
12 **Issue:** Nurse home visitation programs

13
14 **Adopted Policy:** NACo recognizes the importance of evidence-based nurse home visitation programs
15 that serve low-income parents, pregnant women and young children. NACo supports the premise that
16 parents need access to public health resources to promote a healthy environment for their families. NACo
17 supports adequate funding, including Medicaid funding, for all nurse home visitation programs that
18 benefit families.

19
20 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
21
22

23 **Resolution Supporting Efforts in the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity and Overweight**

24
25 **Issue:** Reduce obesity and overweight and improve wellness.

26
27 **Adopted Policy:** NACo recognizes obesity and overweight as conditions that can persist from childhood
28 to adulthood, that are associated with chronic disease, and that cause preventable and premature deaths in
29 adults, adolescents and children. NACo supports local public health department leadership in obesity and
30 overweight prevention.

31
32 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
33
34

35 **Resolution on Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness**

36
37 **Issue:** Local health departments play a vital role in promoting and maintaining the nation's health and
38 security. They have legal authorities and perform preparedness functions and duties to ensure the safety
39 and well-being of counties in the face of potential public health emergencies.

40
41 **Adopted Policy:** To ensure the public's health and safety, NACo urges the Administration and Congress
42 to provide adequate funding through the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness
43 Act (PAHPA) to build and sustain local infrastructure for public health emergency preparedness.

44
45 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
46
47

48 **Resolution Endorsing the Vision and Goals of the National Prevention Strategy**

49
50 **Issue:** Support for the National Prevention Strategy
51

1 **Adopted Policy:** NACo endorses the overarching vision and goals of the National Prevention Strategy
2 and will support actions and promote policies that support its effective implementation across all levels of
3 government and in communities.

4
5 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

6
7
8 **Resolution on Changing Nursing Home Oversight to Support and Promote Culture Change**

9
10 **Issue:** Regulatory barriers to improving nursing home culture

11
12 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove barriers
13 and regulations that hinder providers from making transformative environmental, administrative and care
14 practice changes that promote positive outcomes to resident and family satisfaction and improved quality
15 of care and quality of life.

16
17 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

18
19
20 **Resolution on Persistent Health Disparities**

21
22 **Issue:** Persistent health disparities

23
24 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports legislation to reduce health disparities and address the social
25 determinants of health, increase the diversity and cultural and linguistic competencies of the health
26 workforce, and improve environmental justice. This must include significant direct federal funding for
27 counties to implement programs designed to reduce disparities, by direct service delivery and in
28 partnership with providers.

29
30 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

31
32
33 **Resolution Supporting Repealing and Replacing the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding
34 Program**

35
36 **Issue:** The Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)
37 Competitive Bidding Program threatens small, rural home medical equipment supplier businesses and
38 access to home care for beneficiaries in rural counties.

39
40 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program and calls for repeal of the
41 program. NACo supports the alternative Market Pricing Program (MPP), an improved bidding system
42 developed by the medical equipment industry and supported by economists. The MPP will cut Medicare
43 rates for home medical equipment to a responsible level and allow all providers to participate at those
44 rates regardless of the bidding process.

45
46 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

47
48
49 **Resolution on Health System Reform**

50
51 **Issue:** Health system reform

1
2 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports implementing and improving the Patient Protection and Affordable
3 Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act – collectively known as the
4 Affordable Care Act (ACA) – through regulation and additional legislation in such a way as to restore the
5 partnership between the federal government and counties as outlined in the health chapter of NACo's
6 American County Platform and Proposed Resolutions and as summarized in the white paper, "Restoring
7 the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System."
8

9 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

10
11
12 **Resolution Supporting Ongoing Federal Support for Local Safety Net Providers**

13
14 **Issue:** Need to maintain strong health care safety net system as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is
15 implemented
16

17 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the federal government to ensure the availability of adequate and
18 sustainable funding for safety net providers as they continue to care for the uninsured.
19

20 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

21
22
23 **Resolution Supporting Charity Care Requirements for Non-Profit Health Care Facilities**

24
25 **Issue:** Charity care requirements for non-profit and tax-exempt health care facilities.
26

27 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports imposing charity care requirements on non-profit and tax-exempt health
28 care facilities, including standards that measure facilities' access to and utilization of tax-exempt capital,
29 to objectively determine the amount of actual health care providers tender to those in need against the
30 value of tax exemptions that the facilities receive.
31

32 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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34
35 **Resolution on County Organized Health Systems**

36
37 **Issue:** Local administration of Medicaid and expanded public programs via "County Organized Health
38 Systems"
39

40 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress and the Administration to remove current statutory prohibitions
41 that prevent the establishment of additional County Organized Health Systems (federally defined as
42 "Health Insuring Organizations"). NACo also urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
43 (CMS) to adopt a policy of encouraging the formation of County Organized Health Systems as a means to
44 more effectively deliver Medicaid benefits at the local level.
45

46 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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48
49 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

50
51 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

1
2 **Resolution on Reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant**
3

4 **Issue:** The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) program expires at the end of
5 the fiscal year.
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to revise the current TANF program to provide greater state and
8 county flexibility to create and provide services that support families and help move them off welfare.
9 NACo supports allowing more state flexibility in TANF program design such as allowing higher
10 education to count as work; realistic time limits on education; and allowing states to use TANF funds to
11 support post-secondary educational expenses. NACo urges Congress to, at a minimum, retain and
12 enhance state flexibility to use TANF funds for subsidized employment. NACo urges Congress to
13 reauthorize all programs within TANF and restore the TANF Supplemental Grants. NACo urges
14 Congress to ensure that reauthorization includes the provision that the TANF block grant is increased
15 annually in an amount commensurate with the rate of inflation.
16

17 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
18
19

20 **Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform**
21

22 **Issue:** Congressional action needed to fix our broken immigration system
23

24 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform
25 this year that:
26

- 27 • Provides for uniform enforcement of all existing laws;
- 28 • Secures our borders;
- 29 • Includes a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
- 30 • Establishes a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- 31 • Imposes no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- 32 • Includes no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- 33 • Preserves the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federally-funded health benefits and provides a
34 sustainable funding stream to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-
35 citizens who are denied federally-funded health benefits;
- 36 • Establishes an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks,
37 demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, paying back taxes and fees that may be
38 required;
- 39 • Improves and simplifies the current legal immigration system; and
- 40 • Provides green cards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics students who have
41 received a graduate degree from American universities.
42

43 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
44
45

46 **Resolution on the DREAM Act**
47

48 **Issue:** Support for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act
49

50 **Adopted Policy:** NACo calls upon Congress and the President to promptly enact the DREAM Act.

1
2 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

3
4
5 **Resolution on the Community Services Block Grant**

6
7 **Issue:** The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) has been targeted for serious cuts and program
8 changes.

9
10 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports full funding for CSBG as well as the program's formula grant structure.

11
12 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

13
14
15 **Resolution on the Social Services Block Grant**

16
17 **Issue:** The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) remains vulnerable to cuts in the context of entitlement
18 reform and deficit reduction.

19
20 **Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly supports the SSBG and opposes any efforts to eliminate or reduce its
21 funding.

22
23 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

24
25
26 **Resolution on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act**

27
28 **Issue:** Aging population growth is increasing demand for services to older Americans.

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the strengthening, through additional funding, of the Older Americans Act
31 (OAA) in these key areas: home delivered nutrition services, case management, information and
32 assistance services, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Supportive Services
33 (including Long-Term Care), Ombudsman Program, and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.
34 NACo further urges Congress to reauthorize the OAA, expand program flexibility to distribute funds
35 between nutrition programs (Title III C), as well as between Title III C and Supportive Services (Title III
36 B). NACo further supports the local service delivery structure for OAA programs.

37
38 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

39
40
41 **Resolution on Strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

42
43 **Issue:** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is up for reauthorization in the 2013
44 Farm Bill.

45
46 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to strengthen the SNAP program by:

- 47
48
 - Restoring the federal share of state and county administrative costs so that every state is guaranteed a
49 50 percent reimbursement;
 - Allowing all states to operate the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Combined Application
50 51 Program (CAP);

- Continuing to simplify the SNAP application process;
- Extending the SNAP benefit increase that is scheduled to sunset in 2013;
- Increasing the minimum benefit; and
- Continuing the state option to make households that receive benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) categorically eligible for SNAP.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

Resolution Supporting the Recognition of Prostituted Children and Youth as Victims of Sexual Exploitation

Issue: Recognizing youth who are victims of sexual exploitation as children in need of protective services

Adopted Policy: NACo urges state and local governments to change their approach to dealing with juveniles who are engaged in prostitution, by shifting focus away from treating them as offenders to instead recognizing them as children in need of protective services. Further, NACo urges Congress to provide grants to states and counties to support these important protective services.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

Resolution on the Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant

Issue: The Child Care and Development Block Grant expires at the end of the fiscal year.

Adopted Policy: NACo supports a reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which includes enhanced program flexibility, and s increased access to quality and safe child care.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

Resolution on the International Collection of Child Support Obligations

Issue: Congress is considering legislation to streamline and make more uniform the process for collecting child support obligations from non-custodial parents living outside the United States.

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to enact legislation implementing the 2007 Hague Treaty Convention, which contains procedures that ratifying countries must follow to process international child support cases in a uniform, simple, efficient, and accessible manner that is cost-free to U.S. citizens seeking support in other countries.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

1
2 **Issue:** Misuse of Taxpayer Identity
3

4 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to pass legislation supporting action to reduce tax crimes and
5 identity theft; encourage the Department of Justice (DOJ) to dedicate additional resources, including the
6 use of investigative task forces, to address tax-return identity theft; focus resources in areas with a high
7 rate of tax-return identity theft; coordinate investigations with state and local law enforcement agencies;
8 protect vulnerable victims, including veterans, seniors and minors; and penalties to help deter this type of
9 crime and protect victims.
10

11 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
12
13

14 **Resolution Supporting the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)** 15

16 **Issue:** During each of the past two years, the Secretary of Homeland Security has proposed weakening the
17 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and including it with terrorism grants
18

19 **Adopted Policy:** NACo requests that Congress guarantee that the Emergency Management Performance
20 Grant (EMPG) remain a separate program, separately funded from all other grants that specifically
21 address terrorism or other specific issues (remaining, then, a truly all-hazards program); requiring that a
22 minimum of 70 percent of EMPG funds be passed through to local government with a 50-50 match
23 requirement; and funding it at the highest possible levels, but no less than the FY2012 appropriations.
24

25 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
26
27

28 **Resolution on an Alternative Restructuring of Homeland Security Grants** 29

30 **Issue:** Establishing fiscally sound adjustments to homeland security grant programs that will continue to
31 enhance the nation's capabilities to meet the challenges posed to counties by emergencies and disasters of
32 all types.
33

34 **Adopted Policy:** NACo applauds the efforts of the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security to streamline the
35 grant system and build a more fiscally responsible and sustainable program. However, NACo opposes the
36 Homeland Security Grant Vision put forth by the Secretary in FY2012 and FY2013. NACo proposes an
37 alternative that will better address the needs of all levels of government, and that does not discard the
38 advances created by the past grants. We propose consolidation of the current homeland security grants
39 into two programs:
40

41 National Preparedness Program - A compilation of all current homeland security grants from the U.S.
42 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
43 (except as below), based on realistic risk to each state from all hazards including but not limited to
44 terrorism, grants would be made to each state in order to sustain and enhance resilience and the ability to
45 help other jurisdictions. Prioritization and allocation decisions to be made by the State Administrative
46 Agency in transparent consultation and consent of local governments, and continuing to require that no
47 less than 80 percent of these funds be passed to local government based on their realistic risk.
48

49 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) - Specific additional funding to the 25 urban areas at greatest risk
50 of disastrous event (of all hazards including terrorism) in light of the significant populations and
51 economic drives located in these areas. Again, the program would be jointly administered by the State

1 Administrative Agency and the existing UASI organizational units and continuing to require that no less
2 than 80 percent of these funds be passed through to the urban areas.

3
4 NACo will work with Congress and the other stakeholders to prepare updated legislative language to
5 accomplish these goals.

6
7 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

8
9
10 **Resolution Calling on the FCC to Acknowledge the Difference Between Prisons and County Jails**

11
12 **Issue:** FCC rulemaking on correctional calling that does not differentiate between prisons and county
13 jails.

14
15 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the ability of county jails to recover the cost of providing inmate calling
16 systems. NACo also supports providing a cost model that recognizes the difference in prisons and county
17 jails.

18
19 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

20
21
22 **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

23
24 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

25
26 **Resolution on Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

27
28 **Issue:** Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) that promotes innovation and
31 flexibility at the state and local level, is responsive to local emerging economic realities and business
32 needs, and ensures U.S. workers and businesses have the skills and training needed to compete in the 21st
33 century economy.

34
35 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

36
37
38 **Resolution Supporting the Improvement of the U.S. Department of Labor's Response to Local**
39 **Workforce Reporting Standards**

40
41 **Issue:** Improving the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) responsiveness to local workforce issues such as
42 reporting standards.

43
44 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges DOL to simplify and clarify its fiscal reporting system and allow monthly
45 data to be submitted.

46
47 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

48
49
50 **Resolution Supporting Infrastructure Funding for Local One-Stop Career Centers**

1
2 **Issue:** Dedicated infrastructure funding for local One-Stop Career Centers

3
4 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports providing dedicated infrastructure funding for the facilities and
5 operations of Local One-Stop Career Centers.

6
7 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

8
9
10 **Resolution Supporting Healthcare Worker Programs**

11
12 **Issue:** Healthcare worker programs

13
14 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports workforce policies and funding priorities for healthcare worker
15 programs, which are responsive to both the supply of healthcare workers and the demand for their skills in
16 urban and rural areas, to ensure that programs are appropriately tailored to the unique configuration of
17 needs and resources in each state and in each local jurisdiction.

18
19 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

20
21
22 **Resolution Opposing New Taxes on Health Care Benefits**

23
24 **Issue:** The possible application of the excise tax provided in the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) to
25 health insurance for county employees as well as the expansion of taxation on employer-provided health
26 benefits

27
28 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes the taxation of health insurance benefits to county employees through
29 the application of the ACA excise tax on health insurance benefits for county employees, the capping of
30 the tax exclusion for employer-based defined contributions made by counties and any new taxes which
31 would apply to the health benefits that counties provide to their employees.

32
33 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

34
35
36 **PUBLIC LANDS**

37
38 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

39
40 **Resolution Supporting Funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program**

41
42 **Issue:** Long-term funding source for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program (PILT)

43
44 **Adopted Policy:** Except for instances in which acquisition of private land may be necessary to comply
45 with provisions of the Endangered Species Act, or acquisitions are supported by the local government of
46 the affected area. NACo supports designating the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a
47 sustainable source of funding for Payment in Lieu of Taxes, with formula modification that would
48 comply with NACo policy & policy #13 of the Federal Land Management & Policy Act of 1976. NACo
49 further supports full funding of annual LWCF appropriations without reductions to state mineral lease
50 funds, if PILT is fully funded through the LWCF fund.

1 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
2
3

4 **Resolution Supporting Active Federal Forest Management with Bridge Funding**
5

6 **Issue:** While counties are deeply grateful for the financial lifeline of the Secure Rural Schools &
7 Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), NACo urges a new direction in management of our federal
8 forests, for the very health of the forests themselves, and for job opportunities and social and economic
9 sustainability. While some form of “bridge funding” to maintain solvency in our counties will be
10 required, particularly given the dominance of federal forest presence in many counties, it must be in
11 concert with a new direction in federal forest management.
12

13 **Adopted Policy:** Legislation that provides bridge funding to forested counties and school districts while
14 economic vitality is restored in these communities is vitally important and essential. Also, for economic
15 vitality, Congress must mandate active sustainable forest management to achieve resilient forestlands
16 managed by the United States government.
17

18 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
19
20

21 **Resolution Supporting Traditional Receipt Sharing with Counties of Stewardship End Result**
22 **Contracting Project Authority**
23

24 **Issue:** The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are seeking legislative authority to
25 enter into stewardship contracts for management of federal forests and rangelands. Without action the
26 authority will expire in 2013. The proposed reauthorization does not include, however, traditional sharing
27 with counties of revenues generated from these projects.
28

29 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports stewardship end results contracting projects as a tool to manage federal
30 forests and rangelands, but only if it retains the historical receipts sharing with counties. In this context,
31 the sharing should be based on the gross appraised value of the commodity or product harvested or
32 produced under the contract or agreement.
33

34 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
35
36

37 **Resolution on Utilization of U.S. Timber after a Domestic Declaration of Disaster**
38

39 **Issue:** Supporting federal law changes to increase the flow of federal timber for domestic reconstruction
40 purposes (after the declaration of emergency) improves economies and community sustainability.
41

42 **Adopted Policy:** The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act should be
43 amended, specifically sections 307, 315, 316, 323, 421, and 683, to include provisions to require that
44 reconstruction materials originate from U.S. forest lands. When federal dollars are allocated for disaster
45 relief, changes to these sections would benefit schools, roads, and law enforcement in counties with U.S.
46 forest lands.
47

48 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
49
50

51 **Resolution Urging Congress to Establish Community Forest Trust Pilot Programs**

1
2 **Issue:** Revenues for counties with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land
3

4 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the creation of a community forest trust pilot program that:
5

- 6 • Designates specific USFS land, or natural resources on specific USFS land, outside of wilderness
7 designations to be managed by the states on behalf of counties and schools according to state land
8 management practices and federal and state laws as they apply to state land;
- 9 • Allocates revenues generated from the management of these designated lands to all forest
10 counties with the participating state using a mutually agreed upon formula;
- 11 • Establishes a management board of county commissioners submitted by a state association of
12 counties (or comparable), and appointed by the governor for each participating state; and
- 13 • Allows the USFS to maintain ownership and fire management responsibility of the land.
14

15 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
16
17

18 **Resolution Supporting Emergency Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects** 19

20 **Issue:** Supporting Emergency Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects
21

22 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports specific components of HR 818, the "Healthy Forest Management and
23 Wildfire Prevention Act," which gives states the authority to identify areas afflicted by the bark beetle
24 epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires and to put in place
25 emergency hazardous fuels reduction projects.
26

27 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
28
29

30 **Resolution on Hazardous Fuels Emergency** 31

32 **Issue:** Accumulation of biomass on federal lands.
33

34 **Adopted Policy:** NACo calls on Congress to grant a Governor the authority to declare a state of
35 emergency when the severity of fire danger from fuels on identified federal lands within that state poses a
36 significant threat to public health and safety.
37

38 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
39
40

41 **Resolution Supporting Reintroduction of the Community Forestry Conservation Act of 2011 and** 42 **the Use of Community Forestry Bonds** 43

44 **Issue:** Authorizing the use of municipal debt (Community Forestry Bonds) as a tool to help keep
45 working forests in communities across the nation.
46

47 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the reintroduction and passage of *The Community Forestry*
48 *Conservation Act of 2011*.
49

50 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

1
2
3 **Resolution Supporting the Full and Immediate Implementation of the Transfer of Public Lands**
4

5 **Issue:** Transfer of public lands
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** NACo believes all fifty states are equal and that every state should receive everything
8 that was promised to them in their enabling acts, including land transfers, if requested by an individual
9 state with consultation with the affected counties.
10

11 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
12
13

14 **Resolution Supporting an Amendment to the Antiquities Act to Require Congressional Approval**
15 **and NEPA Review Before a Presidential National Monument Proclamation Becomes Effective**
16

17 **Issue:** National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and congressional approval prior to
18 establishment of a national monument
19

20 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports Congressional revision of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to require that
21 any Presidential National Monument proclamation seek the participation of affected state and local
22 governments, be subject to NEPA review, and obtain Congressional approval.
23

24 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
25
26

27 **Resolution in Support of Wilderness Legislation with County Input and Support**
28

29 **Issue:** Supporting multiple uses on all federal and state public lands so that conservation and
30 development of natural resources is balanced with consideration of local needs. The efficient
31 administration, conservation and development of Colorado's natural resources must be balanced with
32 protection of the environment and consideration of local needs.
33

34 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports special land designations of federal lands that are proposed by local
35 residents and businesses, is consistent with existing land use policies, and is strongly supported by the
36 affected counties and stakeholders within which the designation is proposed. NACo strongly encourages
37 congressional delegations to only consider future wilderness legislation with affected counties' support, as
38 exemplified by S. 341, the San Juan Wilderness Act.
39

40 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
41
42

43 **Resolution Supporting Uranium Activities**
44

45 **Issue:** On January 9, 2012, the Secretary of the Interior, using faulty information, withdrew one million
46 acres of the nation's highest grade uranium ores from mineral entry in Northern Arizona.
47

48 **Adopted Policy:** NACo believes that the January 12, 2012 withdrawal for Northern Arizona should be
49 overturned, or revoked, and the lands returned to multiple use status, and under the terms of the 1984
50 Arizona Wilderness Act, release of lands not suitable for wilderness (except in Coconino County), as long

1 as operators continue to abide by existing state and federal environmental laws, regulations, and
2 standards, including reclamation.

3
4 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

5
6
7 **Resolution Opposing BLM's 2012 Decision to Reduce Lands Available**
8 **for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Leasing**
9

10 **Issue:** The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2012 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
11 (PEIS), which greatly reduced the areas approved by BLM in 2008 for oil shale and tar sands leasing
12 programs in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado

13
14 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges BLM to reverse the 2012 PEIS and approve for oil shale and tar sands
15 leasing all qualifying lands in the Green River Formation.

16
17 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

18
19
20 **Resolution Opposing BLM's Promulgation of Duplicative Hydraulic Fracturing Regulations**
21

22 **Issue:** The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) intent to adopt duplicative hydraulic fracturing rules
23

24 **Adopted Policy:** NACo is opposed to a BLM hydraulic fracturing rule that does not clearly and fully
25 defer regulation of hydraulic fracturing to states that already have in place comprehensive regulations.
26

27 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

28
29
30 **Resolution to Rescind the BLM's "Master Leasing Plan" Oil and Gas Leasing Reform**
31

32 **Issue:** Rescind the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Master Leasing Plan Instruction Memorandum
33 and Related Guidance.

34
35 **Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly urges the Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary and the BLM Director
36 to immediately rescind BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2010-117 and all related guidance, because
37 they attempt to implement so-called "Master Leasing Plan" reforms that unlawfully override duly
38 established BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) without local government input.
39

40 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

41
42
43 **Resolution Urging Congress to Expedite a Commercial Oil Shale Leasing Program**
44

45 **Issue:** Oil shale leasing program in the Green River Formation

46
47 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to address in a timely manner, the regulatory review process in
48 order to facilitate a functioning, environmentally responsible commercial oil shale leasing program in the
49 Green River Formation.
50

51 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

1
2
3 **Resolution Supporting Funding for Our National Parks**
4

5 **Issue:** Federal funding for the National Park Service (NPS)
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** NACo calls on Congress to preserve funding for America’s national parks. NACo
8 supports maintaining funding for the National Park Service (NPS), recognizing that national parks
9 provide recreation, economic and tourism opportunities for counties, and gateway communities. NACo
10 also urges Congress to increase funding for the NPS to address the dire backlog of maintenance projects,
11 now totaling \$11 billion, which includes critically needed road access and bridge maintenance projects.
12 Potential funding sources include utilizing some eligible, but unfunded off-shore gas and oil lease monies
13 that are dedicated to Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for support of maintenance and
14 operations for NPS.
15

16 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
17
18

19 **Resolution Supporting Ongoing Efforts of Western States to Manage and Conserve the Greater**
20 **Sage Grouse and in Opposition to an ESA Listing of the Greater Sage Grouse at This Time**
21

22 **Issue:** Whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should give deference to the efforts of the
23 western states and local governments to manage and conserve the Greater Sage Grouse and recognize
24 those state efforts as adequate enough to forego any Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of the Greater
25 Sage Grouse as threatened or endangered.
26

27 **Adopted Policy:** Ongoing Greater Sage Grouse management efforts of state and local governments,
28 stakeholder, working groups, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
29 Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Land Use Plans throughout the eleven western states are
30 protecting and restoring Greater Sage Grouse habitats and reviving populations. Therefore, NACo
31 opposes listing the Greater Sage Grouse as a Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species at this time.
32 Furthermore, BLM and USFS should give great deference to adequately crafted state and local sage
33 grouse management plans when adopting any federal land use plan amendments, pursuant to the
34 consistency and coordination requirements under federal law.
35

36 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
37
38

39 **Resolution Opposing the Listing of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an Endangered Species, and**
40 **Opposing the Designation of Critical Habitat without Scientific Basis, such as in Ouray and**
41 **Hinsdale Counties, Colorado**
42

43 **Issue:** The proposed USFWS listing of Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered species and designation
44 of critical habitat is premature, unwarranted, and without scientific basis and does not take into
45 consideration successful ongoing voluntary efforts to protect and enhance Gunnison Sage Grouse
46 populations and its actual habitat.
47

48 **Adopted Policy:** The proposed listing of the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered species and
49 designation of critical habitat is premature, unwarranted, and without scientific basis. Ongoing voluntary
50 efforts of ten Colorado counties and one Utah county where Gunnison Sage Grouse critical habitat has

1 been proposed by USFWS, are adequate to manage, stabilize and restore Gunnison Sage Grouse
2 populations such that a Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listing of this species is unwarranted.

3
4 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

5
6
7 **Resolution on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Management of the Utah Prairie Dog**

8
9 **Issue:** Utah Prairie Dog Counts

10
11 **Adopted Policy:** NACO urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to modify policies to permit
12 the counting of Utah Prairie Dogs on private land for the purpose species recovery efforts.

13
14 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

15
16
17 **Resolution on Local Law Enforcement on Public Lands**

18
19 **Issue:** Local law enforcement on public lands

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** NACO urges all federal land management agencies to recognize and respect sheriffs (or
22 the chief local law enforcement officer) in public land counties as the primary and chief law enforcement
23 officer of the entire county. Federal agencies should execute cooperative agreements with counties to
24 ensure fair and prompt federal payment of compensation for additional local law enforcement activities
25 desired of sheriffs, and federal agencies submit their agents for deputization and accountability under
26 local sheriff authority and control.

27
28 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

29
30
31 **Resolution Supporting Changing Forest Service Employee Supervision**

32
33 **Issue:** Chain of command for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement personnel

34
35 **Adopted Policy:** NACO supports a change in USFS personnel organization to place law enforcement
36 officers under the direction of Forest Supervisors.

37
38 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

39
40
41 **Resolution Calling for Membership on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Steering Committees
42 to Include County Elected Officials**

43
44 **Issue:** County membership on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)

45
46 **Adopted Policy:** NACO supports the expansion of LCC Steering Committees to include at least one
47 elected county official or approved regional official representing local governmental interests on each
48 Steering Committee, and preferably one from each state in those eco-regions which are multi-state.

49
50 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

1
2 **Resolution on Acquisition of Private Land for Wildlife Mitigation Associated with Renewable**
3 **Energy Development with Subsequent Transfer to Federal Agencies**
4

5 **Issue:** Acquisition of private land for wildlife mitigation associated with renewable energy development
6

7 **Adopted Policy:** NACo requests the land and wildlife management agencies adopt procedures that
8 provide for project mitigation other than through land transfer from private to public ownership, unless
9 supported by the affected counties. When such transfers are deemed the only appropriate mitigation, and
10 offsetting the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program (PILT) will not occur, then agencies must provide that
11 project developer would continue to pay the property tax on the transferred land, or fees in lieu of taxes,
12 in perpetuity, unless the land is restored to private ownership at a future date.
13

14 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
15
16

17 **Resolution on Mitigation for Historic and Recognized Federal Land Multiple Uses When**
18 **Renewable Energy Projects are Developed on Federal Land**
19

20 **Issue:** Allowing multiple use activities on federal lands
21

22 **Adopted Policy:** NACo requests that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest
23 Service (USFS) adopt policies that provide real and substantial consideration of historic uses in the
24 project plans and environmental documentation, and require project developers to provide mitigation for
25 their loss.
26

27 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
28
29

30 **Resolution Supporting Third Party Recreational Concessionaires in Counties Parks on Bureau of**
31 **Land Management Land**
32

33 **Issue:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) believes it does not have statutory authority to allow
34 third party concessionaires to provide recreational opportunities such as camp grounds, horseback riding,
35 and golf courses on BLM land leased or patented to counties.
36

37 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the strengthening of recreational opportunities and the resulting economic
38 benefits through public-private partnerships on all public lands.
39

40 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
41
42

43 **Resolution Supporting the Government Litigation Savings Act**
44

45 **Issue:** Accountability and transparency regarding payments made under the Equal Access to Justice Act
46 (EAJA)
47

48 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the Government Litigation Savings Act (S.1061/ H.R.1996) as the
49 passage of these bills would:
50

- 1 • Continue to provide a mechanism to assure fair and equal access to public funds for individuals, small
2 businesses and non-profit organizations with limited financial resources to assure their ability to
3 participate in the justice system of these United States;
- 4 • Help restore accountability and transparency on how federal funds are being spent by reestablishing a
5 provision for reporting to Congress on expenditures under the EAJA;
- 6 • Restrict the amount of EAJA dollars that can be applied for to reimburse successful individual and
7 small entities for legal expenses in actions brought against the federal government;
- 8 • Restrict the eligibility to apply for reimbursement of legal expenses for those individuals and entities
9 without the assets necessary to bring legal action against the federal government; and
- 10 • Urge Congress to adopt an asset limit for applicants consistent with the congressional intent of the
11 EAJA.

12
13 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

14
15
16 **Resolution Opposing the U.S. Department of Interior’s Secretarial Order 3321, National Blueways**
17 **System**

18
19 **Issue:** The Department of Interior’s Use of Secretarial Order 3321, National Blueways System

20
21 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes the Department of Interior’s use of Secretarial Order 3321, National
22 Blueways System, which could usurp state authority and impact private property rights.

23
24 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

25
26
27 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

28
29 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

30
31 **Resolution Supporting Deployment of Next Gen 911**

32
33 **Issue:** Allowing 911 call centers to receive Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates along with text
34 messages.

35
36 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes efforts to impose unfunded mandates on local governments, but
37 supports the voluntary use of text messaging to 911 and encourages the sending of GPS coordinates with
38 text and SMS messaging when using 911.

39
40 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

41
42
43 **Resolution Supporting Local Authority in Installing Antennas on Public Property**

44
45 **Issue:** Limits on local government authorities regarding antennas on public property

46
47 **Adopted Policy:** NACo opposes efforts to impose limits on local authorities to determine the installation
48 of antennas on public property.

49
50 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

1
2
3 **TRANSPORTATION**

4
5 **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

6
7 **Resolution on the Future of the Federal Surface Transportation Program**

8
9 **Issue:** MAP-21, the federal surface transportation program and the user fees that support it, expire on
10 September 30, 2014, and must be reauthorized.

11
12 **Adopted Policy:**

13
14 **Financing**

- 15
- 16 • For the next reauthorization, the gas tax should remain a major source of funding.
 - 17 • There needs to be an immediate increase in the federal gas tax and indexing to address the
18 outstanding needs of the surface transportation systems.
 - 19 • The interest generated by the trust funds needs to be credited back to the trust fund.
 - 20 • The federal-local match should remain the same.
 - 21 • User pay should continue to be the cornerstone of transportation financing.
 - 22 • There should be no devolution/turn back of current federal gas tax authority to the states.
 - 23 • The revenue base for federal transportation programs should be broadened to reduce the reliance
24 on the traditional fuel tax and on fossil fuels. The current gasoline tax is not sustainable in the
25 future due in part to increasing fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, and potential lower consumption
26 of fuel due to increasing prices.
 - 27 • The reauthorization needs to examine alternative sources of funding and should include pilot
28 projects and research to address the future financing needs of the transportation system.
 - 29 • All fuels should be taxed the same-if a fuel source powers vehicles, it should be taxed equally and
30 deposited into the Highway Trust Fund.
 - 31 • Additional revenue sources should be available in congested areas, such as congestion pricing.
 - 32 • The movement of freight should be subject to federal taxes/impact fees that reflect the damage
33 their weight imposes on the infrastructure.
 - 34 • A national sales tax for transportation should be explored.
 - 35 • Tolling of interstate capacity should be permitted, including new capacity or converted capacity
36 on existing interstates, such as HOV lanes. Proceeds from tolling may be used for capital or
37 operating costs. County governments should be reimbursed for any diversion of traffic due to
38 tolling.
 - 39 • Debt financing through a bonding/federal infrastructure financing authority proposal should be
40 included that would complement the existing highway and transit programs and provide an
41 additional source of funding for large projects, particularly those that reduced bottlenecks in the
42 system, expedite the movement of freight and address congestion.
 - 43 • The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) should be retained and, if
44 appropriate, be expanded.

45 **Funding**

- 46
- 47 • Federal funding for highways, bridges and transit needs is currently inadequate and needs to be
48 increased substantially to reflect the future needs of the surface transportation system.
 - 49 • More funding needs to be directed to county-owned roads, either through a federal sharing
formula or as a direct pass through.

- To eliminate delays in project implementation, a funding mechanism needs to be created that would allow projects below a certain funding level to bypass the states and come directly to county government.

Metro Congestion

- A new federal program should be created to reduce urban and suburban congestion in metropolitan regions.
- A broad-based congestion plan needs to be developed in each metropolitan area.
- Incident management must be considered a priority. An incentive grant program should be created, which funds counties/metropolitan regions that implement a comprehensive incident management plan.
- Innovative approaches, such as short sea shipping, should be developed.
- Each metro area needs to develop a plan to manage trucks, including a priority to segregate freight.
- Intermodal facilities should be developed to facilitate movement of freight by rail to the extent possible.
- The Surface Transportation Board, in making decisions regarding railroad ownership and expansion, must consider impact of grade crossings.
- Congestion pricing should be promoted as a cost-effective way to reduce congestion, more efficiently use existing and new capacity and raise additional revenue.
- A focus on decreasing congestion to reduce emissions should be emphasized.

Transit

- The mass transit program must retain its separate identity.
- The transit program should include the goals of improving metropolitan and rural mobility, reducing congestion, conserving energy resources, reducing greenhouse gases and serving the needs of underserved populations.
- Funding for mass transit should be increased either through its existing share of the Highway Trust Fund or through the general fund.
- More flexibility should be given to the recipients of transit funding as to how the funds should be allocated, including whether funds are spent for operating or capital expenses.
- The Federal Transit Administration should distribute funds within six months of approval.
- Transit benefit subsidy should be equal to the subsidized parking benefit.
- Before a transit system receives funds, at least a five-year strategic plan for that system must be in place.
- The project approval/development process must be simplified.
- Indemnification of shared railroad rights of way-create a national indemnity liability fund for public transit agencies/authorities that wish to operate commuter rail service in freight rail corridors.
- Streamline standards and processes for approving transit projects with the goal of increasing the speed at which projects can be built and decreasing the cost of projects.
- Connectivity should be included as a criterion in approving expenditure of federal funds on transit projects.

Bridge Program

- The federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP) must be reinstated to address the backlog of deficient bridges. It should continue to be a separate category with greater funding.

- 1 • The set-aside for off-system bridges in the Surface Transportation Program needs to be continued
2 with an increased funding level; however, a waiver should be allowed when counties and their
3 respective states in partnership jointly agree.
- 4 • A set-aside for on-system bridges that are not on the National Highway System needs to be
5 established.
- 6 • No change to the sufficiency rating system that determines which bridges are eligible for federal
7 funds.
- 8 • Enhanced maintenance should be an eligible activity when using federal bridge funds.
- 9 • Allocation of bridge funds among the state and local governments within a state should be data
10 driven and reflect the number of deficient bridges for both the on-system and off-system
11 programs.

12
13 **Rural Roads**

- 14 • Additional federal highway funds should be available for rural projects on county-owned
15 systems.
- 16 • There needs to be a simplified system of project approval on rural and other projects related to the
17 cost, design and complexity of a project.
- 18 • The High Risk Rural Road Program should be reinstated with at least \$1 billion annually in
19 funding and an enhanced process developed for county officials to approve funding decisions.
20 Funding for projects should be targeted toward proven and cost-effective safety improvements.
21 Projects should be restricted to rural major or minor collector or rural local roads.
- 22 • Rural Set-Aside: In those states with a county road system, there should be a rural set-aside in the
23 Surface Transportation Program and it should be restricted to county roads functionally classified
24 as arterials or major and minor collectors that are administered by local governments.

25
26 **Surface Transportation Program**

- 27 • The Surface Transportation Program (STP) should be continued with the goal of providing
28 maximum funding to county governments with a minimum of interference by state officials
29 concerning spending decisions.
- 30 • Division of STP funds within a state should be based on two-thirds population and one-third state
31 discretion.
- 32 • The special rule allowing some STP funds to be used on minor collectors should be retained.

33
34 **National Highway System**

- 35 • The National Highway System (NHS) program should be continued to provide federal funds to
36 maintain and upgrade the major highway network of the nation.

37
38 **Reservation Road Program**

- 39 • Reservation road funding should be continued for the improvement and maintaining of roads that
40 are used to transport children to or from school or Head Start programs on or near reservations.

41
42 **Federal Lands Access Program**

- 43 • The Federal Lands Access Program should continue to be available to fund improvements to any
44 road that accesses or passes through federally managed public lands; be amended to no longer
45 require a local match; and continue the requirement of a county or other local official sitting on a
46 state committee that chooses projects.

47
48 **Safety**

- 49 • Increase funding for safety projects aimed at reducing fatalities, especially on those rural roads
50 where fatality rates are the highest.

- 1 • The Highway Safety and Improvement Program (HSIP) should be continued with more funding.
- 2 The HSIP program should be targeted to cost-effective safety improvements; there must be a
- 3 greater access for counties to HSIP funding; clear deadlines for project approval; and the creation
- 4 in each state of a committee that includes county and other local government officials that will
- 5 select safety projects of HSIP funding.
- 6 • Safety funding must be focused on those highways and roads with the highest incident levels.
- 7 • The Rail-Highway Grade Crossing set-aside should be retained with increased federal funding for
- 8 grade separation improvements.
- 9 • Transfer of funds from the HSIP to other federal categories should not be permitted.
- 10 • A set-aside for the Safe Routes to School program should be created within the Transportation
- 11 Alternatives program.
- 12 • Additional technology should be used to improve transportation safety.
- 13 • Federal policy on truck weight/size shall not preempt local authority to regulate trucks. Federal
- 14 incentives should be created to reduce speeding and impaired driving.

15
16 **Planning**

- 17 • The new legislation must require that state and local governments cooperate in the planning and
- 18 funding allocation process. Metropolitan areas should retain their independence in planning and
- 19 allocation of federal funds. A guiding principle should be local discretion with accountability to
- 20 federal goals and priorities. This process should establish project priorities for both state and local
- 21 governments and include recognition of the fiscal capacity of all levels of government to finance
- 22 improvement to the surface transportation system.
- 23 • All federal categorical programs should be allocated through the planning process.
- 24 • The planning thresholds of 50,000 and 200,000 populations should not be changed.
- 25 • Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in areas between 50,000-200,000 should have the
- 26 same authority as the large urban MPOs.
- 27 • Additional funding should be made available to MPOs so they have the capacity to coordinate
- 28 with state officials and do the necessary planning to address congestion.
- 29 • Local elected officials must remain a majority on any MPO. The method of allocation of votes
- 30 within MPOs should be examined.
- 31 • In metropolitan regions, project reviews should reflect the goals of the federal Sustainable
- 32 Communities partnership with a strong linkage with land use and include climate change impacts
- 33 and the degree to which transportation projects are integrated with land use.
- 34 • Economic development, access to jobs and job creation should be included when a federal, state
- 35 or regional agency is evaluating a project.
- 36 • The rural planning process needs to be upgraded and additional funding should be made available
- 37 to rural local governments to assist them in the planning process.

38
39 **Research**

- 40 • The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and its 58 centers are the prime source
- 41 available to counties in training and technical transfer of best practices. Funding should be
- 42 expanded to \$15 million in FY2010 and gradually be increased to \$20 million by FY2015.
- 43 • The Vehicle Infrastructure Integrations (VII) Initiative should be supported with the
- 44 understanding and assurance that no new federal mandates on local government are imposed.
- 45 • Substantial funding from the General Fund needs to be available for research into alternative
- 46 fuels.

47
48 **Accountability**

- Standard reporting forms must be used by state agencies in reporting to the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- A complete data base on all federal programs should be developed.
- To measure success, performance measures need to be part of all federally funded projects.
- Allocation of federal funds within a state should be needs based using a rating system.

Regulatory Process

- While concerns about the environment should be part of the project decision making, a balance needs to be part of the process.
- There should be a simplified and integrated approach to environmental permitting related to the size and scope of the project and which focuses on saving time and dollars.
- To save time and money, timelines must be established for regulatory permitting review process.
- A "simple project" component must be developed that focuses on funding project improvement directly to local governments and has an outcome based accountability.
- Support the elimination of federal oversight requirement for projects of \$5 million or less consistent with Section 1317 as established in MAP-21.
- Permitting agencies must coordinate and proceed concurrently to minimize delay in project approval.
- To resolve environmental impact statement and permitting issues, there must be a required point of contact within each state and on the federal level.

Mandates

- All new federal mandates in the transportation area should have specific funding streams attached. Current federal mandates attached to highway and transit funding should be reviewed.
- Land use regulation, a major consideration in transportation, should remain the responsibility of county and other local governments.

Workforce

- Some level of local hiring preference should be permitted on highway and transit projects to encourage employment of local workers on projects.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

Resolution on Railroad Freight Equity

Issue: The Staggers Act of 1980 partially de-regulated the rail freight industry. Due to consolidations of railroads, many shippers are left with no freight rail competition, especially in shipping points where other means of shipping are not viable.

Adopted Policy: NACo supports a strong, competitive freight rail system that promotes the economic development of our counties by helping shippers compete in national and global marketplaces. NACo supports an effective, and balanced, regulatory oversight of the nation's freight railroads by the federal Surface Transportation Board to ensure equitable rates, competition between among railroads and among all modes of transportation, and ensures that disputes over rates for shippers are resolved fairly, affordably and expeditiously. NACo strongly encourages the nation's freight railroads and shippers to jointly continue developing independent alternative dispute resolution systems, offering quick and affordable mediation and arbitration of rate disputes.

Adopted | July 22, 2013

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2
3 **Resolution on Harbor Maintenance Fees**
4

5 **Issue:** Need for investment in the maintenance and improvement of coastal and inland port infrastructure
6 to promote economic growth
7

8 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to enact legislation that supports full expenditure of Harbor
9 Maintenance collections; and to provide equity for deep draft ports that contribute collections to the fund,
10 but do not have significant dredging needs, and should be allowed to access these funds for limited port-
11 related uses.
12

13 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
14
15

16 **Resolution Endorsing a Towards Zero Deaths Safety Strategy at the National and Local Levels**
17

18 **Issue:** Counties have a significant role in reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries.
19

20 **Adopted Policy:** NACo endorses a Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) Safety Strategy at the national level and
21 will support actions and promote policies that support its effective implementation across all levels of
22 government and encourage counties to make full use of available tools and funding to reduce fatalities
23 within their jurisdictions.
24

25 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
26
27

28 **Resolution on High-Speed Intercity Rail for the 21st and 22nd Centuries**
29

30 **Issue:** High-Speed Intercity and Interstate Passenger Rail for the 21st and 22nd centuries
31

32 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports a national dialogue to establish a new high performance national
33 standard for high speed intercity and interstate passenger rail and a corresponding vision and
34 implementation plan for the 21st and 22nd centuries.
35

36 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
37
38

39 **Resolution on Truck Size and Weight**
40

41 **Issue:** Truck size and weight
42

43 **Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits
44 beyond those in current federal law because of the enormous highway safety, infrastructure damage, and
45 transportation funding implications of changes in truck size or weight.
46

47 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**
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49

50 **Resolution on Commuter Rail Trackage and Operating Rights**
51

1 **Issue:** Provision of commuter rail service

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3 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports access for commuter and intercity rail providers to freight rail tracks for
4 the provision of commuter rail service in return for reasonable compensation and terms and recommends
5 the Surface Transportation Board have jurisdiction therein.

6
7 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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9
10 **Resolution on Mitigating the Impact of Rail Mergers and Buyouts on Local Communities**

11 **Issue:** Impacts on a county or other local government and its residents of a freight rail merger or buyout

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13
14 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports a change in federal law requiring the Surface Transportation Board
15 (STB), in a proceeding involving the merge or control of at least one Class I railroad, to consider the
16 effect on the public interest, including the safety and environmental effect of the proposed merger on
17 local communities, intercity rail passenger transportation, and commuter rail passenger transportation; to
18 prohibit the STB from approving mergers if a cost-benefit analysis of their impact on safety, rail service
19 and resulting public investments for infrastructure upgrades on all affected communities outweigh the
20 transportation benefits; and to authorize the STB to impose conditions to mitigate the effect of mergers on
21 local communities.

22
23 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

24
25
26 **Resolution Supporting Customs Fees Being Used for Port Infrastructure Development**

27 **Issue:** Inadequate investment in the maintenance and improvement of coastal and inland port
28 infrastructure

29
30 **Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to support a policy that would dedicate a percentage of the
31 custom duties attributable to maritime port activity to improve the maintenance and development of
32 coastal and inland ports and waterways.

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34
35 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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37
38 **Resolution to Create a National Indemnity Liability Fund for Public Transit Agencies Authorities**

39 **Issue:** National indemnity liability fund for transit agencies/authorities

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41 **Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the creation of a national indemnity liability fund for public transit
42 agencies/authorities that wish to operate commuter rail services in freight rail corridors. NACo further
43 supports an initial federal appropriation of \$200 million that will be used to establish an initial reserve for
44 this fund that will subsequently be managed and maintained by fund participants through premium
45 payments and a professional risk management program.

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47
48 **Adopted | July 22, 2013**

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51 **Resolution on Flexible Transit Funding**

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Issue: Lack of flexibility denies local transit operators from using federal funds to provide service for special events.

Adopted Policy: NACo supports amending Title 49 and revising federal transit regulations to allow more flexibility for transit operators in the spending of federal transit funds, when providing service for local special events.

Adopted | July 22, 2013