[Date]

The Honorable [First Name] [Last Name]

United States [Senate/House of Representatives]

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

Dear [Senator/Congressman Last Name],

On behalf of the [Number] residents of [Name] County, I respectfully request your urgent help and support in developing a bi-partisan, bi-cameral funding solution for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The current appropriations for PILT are set to expire on September 30, 2015 and without congressional action, our county will face a budget shortfall that will impact our ability to provide essential services to residents and visitors.

[Name] County is just one of nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three U.S. territories that receive PILT funding. The federal government owns approximately 28 percent of all land in the U.S., and these lands are not taxable by local governments. PILT helps to offset these losses in tax revenues and help communities provide essential services to federal employees and families, the public and users of public lands. In my county, PILT funds are used to [describe expenditures for county services using PILT funds such as road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance].

Without the certainty of full funding for the PILT program, counties throughout the nation will be unable to provide their residents with essential services such as education, law enforcement, search and rescue, road maintenance and public health. While it must be Congress’ ultimate goal to enact a long-term, sustainable solution to eliminate the ongoing uncertainty counties face, full-funding in FY16 for the PILT program is essential to provide our counties with the certainty they need to plan their own 2016 budgets.

Thank you for your continued service to [Name] County and we stand ready to work with you to develop a funding solution for PILT for Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond.

Sincerely,

[Name of Local Elected Official]

[County, State]