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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of full funding for the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in FY 2019 and beyond.

Thank you for including language to fund PILT in the *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act*. This program provides critical resources to nearly 1,900 counties across 49 states to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions. These dollars go toward supporting many critical services that counties are required to provide on federal public lands such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

The County of Santa Barbara received \$1.86 million through PILT last year. While the County supports authorizing legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, funding in this year's appropriations bill for PILT would ensure that the program continues to help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County.

Thank you for your continued support for PILT as you draft the *FY 2019 Interior Appropriations Act*.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg