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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

Thank you for your support for several important local priorities in the *FY 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill. As the House and Senate draft a final version of this bill in the coming weeks, the County of Santa Barbara requests your support for the following:

- Full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands and ensure support for many critical services.
- Funding for EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs. This funding - especially the Section 103 & 105 programs - supports basic air pollution control activities, including monitoring air quality, developing and planning control options, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and educating the public.
- Retaining the House language that would prohibit any new oil and gas lease sales on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf in FY 2020. In Santa Barbara County, both the 1969 oil spill and the 2015 oil pipeline rupture off the Gaviota Coast demonstrated the catastrophic damage that oil extraction can inflict. The House language protects the State's coastal economy and local fisheries and coastlines from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas exploration. The 1,100-mile coastline of California is a national treasure that is the heart of a tourist industry that generates nearly \$5 billion in State and local taxes annually.

- Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Art has proven to be invaluable as a tool in stimulating and creating economic development, job growth, neighborhood revitalization and greater community vitality. NEA grants allow the County to attract private sector support and to leverage federal funds by matching from other sources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Gilchrest".

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

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