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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 United States Senate
 SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to reauthorize the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program.

PILT 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.

Thank you for cosponsoring Senator Wyden's S. 2480, the *PILT Reauthorization Act of 2019*, which would provide a ten-year authorization for the program. While Congress has recently provided funding for PILT through annual appropriations bills, the Trump Administration has proposed to reduce this program from \$500 million to \$442 million in FY 2021. The County of Santa Barbara urges support for authorizing legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program, rather than leaving it to the vagaries of the annual appropriations process.

Please continue to support enactment of legislation such as S. 2480 to ensure that the program continues to help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg