

The PILT Pledge
For Candidates for the House and Senate

I understand that Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are absolutely critical to rural public lands counties to offset some of the costs that county taxpayers must bear as a result of the presence of these federal lands and related activities within their counties.

I also understand that if the federal government does not make full PILT payments to these counties, the county taxpayers must make up for any funding shortfall because the counties must still provide these services.

I further understand that in its 30 year history, PILT has never been fully funded and, in fact, has never been funded at more than 80% of the authorized amount.

Additionally, I understand that in almost all instances even if PILT is fully funded at the authorized level these PILT payments still would not adequately compensate counties for the costs that are imposed on them by the federal presence in their counties.

To the extent that PILT does not cover all of these costs, and especially to the extent that PILT is not even funded at the authorized level, I understand that county taxpayers, my potential constituents, are literally subsidizing the federal government.

I completely agree that it is inherently unfair and inequitable to require county taxpayers to subsidize the federal government, especially because the presence of large amounts of federal land in many public lands counties means that county services must be provided on a reduced tax base compared to what is available to fund governmental services in non-public land counties.

I also completely agree that the federal government has an absolute moral and ethical responsibility to pay its fair share of the costs of retaining and managing public lands and resources within the public lands counties.

Therefore, if elected, I pledge to make fully funding PILT one of my highest priorities. I further pledge to aggressively support efforts to reallocate funding as necessary to fully fund PILT.

Signed

_____ Date _____

