

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2014

The Honorable
John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As members of the Congressional Western Caucus, we write to thank you for your efforts to ensure that a one-year extension of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was included in the Agricultural Act of 2014. As you are aware, the PILT program pays over \$400 million to thousands of counties in 49 states as a partial reimbursement for the lost property tax revenue resulting from federal land ownership. The program's vital dollars directly fund basic county needs, including the emergency and infrastructure services that counties are expected to provide on the non-taxable public land within their borders.

Moving forward, we would like to work more closely with House leadership to come up with a stable, long-term solution that fulfills the federal government's financial obligation to western counties so long as these lands remain in federal ownership. In the broader context of federal land ownership and management, we would also like to collaborate on creative and fiscally-responsible ways to benefit western rural economies, localize management and decision-making, while simultaneously protecting our treasured landscapes. Please consider our offices as resources and willing partners in this regard.

Thank you for your time and for your efforts in protecting the interests of the West.

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Lummis
Co-Chair
Congressional Western Caucus



Steve Pearce
Co-Chair
Congressional Western Caucus



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



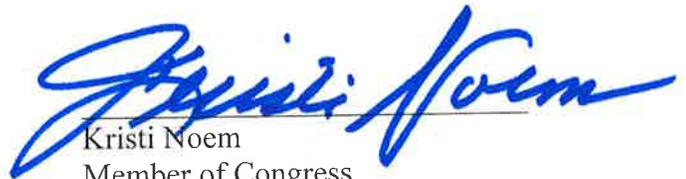
Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



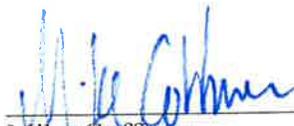
Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress