

REFERENCE TITLE: urging Congress; PILT program; funding

State of Arizona
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SCM 1006

Introduced by
Senators Griffin, Crandell: Pierce, Ward

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FULL, SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND INTO THE FUTURE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was established in
4 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the
5 federal government and to the users of federal lands located within a county;
6 and

7 Whereas, the State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of
8 land, of which 42% is federally owned, nontribal land that is unavailable for
9 economic development and not part of the property tax base. Less than 17% of
10 the land in Arizona is private land; and

11 Whereas, the national average PILT payment in fiscal year 2013 was
12 \$0.66 per acre, which is far below the amount that federal lands would return
13 through both value-based taxation and economic development; and

14 Whereas, counties are required to provide law enforcement, search and
15 rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other
16 community services on, or associated with, tax-exempt federal public lands;
17 and

18 Whereas, Congress failed to provide funding for the PILT program in the
19 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, jeopardizing \$32 million in PILT
20 funding for Arizona counties and causing great uncertainty about county
21 finances and services in fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015; and

22 Whereas, a one-year extension of PILT funding for fiscal year 2014 was
23 included in the farm bill conference report, but the fate of fiscal year 2015
24 funding is still unknown; and

25 Whereas, a lack of PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden
26 of providing services on federal lands squarely on the backs of local county
27 taxpayers, while the presence of that federal land creates barriers to
28 further economic opportunities; and

29 Whereas, failure to secure PILT funding for fiscal year 2015 and into
30 the future for Arizona counties in a timely manner will critically impact the
31 budget process and structural solvency of counties and will substantially
32 compromise their ability to provide essential services; and

33 Whereas, the federal government has the duty to reimburse local
34 jurisdictions for the presence of federal public lands.

35 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
36 Representatives concurring, prays:

37 1. That the United States Congress provide full, sustainable funding
38 for the PILT program for fiscal year 2015 and into the future to help create
39 financial stability within Arizona's counties.

40 2. That the United States Congress work with the State of Arizona and
41 county governments to identify and implement policies to promote economic
42 development on, or associated with, public lands.

43 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy
44 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
45 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
46 Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.