



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 26, 2017

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Ravalli County
Local Government Official
215 S 4th Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840-2703

Dear County Official:

I am pleased to notify you that on June 27, 2017, the Department of the Interior (Department) issued payments under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The PILT program compensates eligible local jurisdictions for Federal lands administered by agencies within the Department and on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Local governments may use the PILT payments for any governmental purpose, including emergency response, public schools, and roads. Since local governments cannot tax Federal lands, annual PILT payments help to defray costs associated with maintaining important community services.

The Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act, 31 U.S.C. 6901-6907, as amended, authorized the program. The PILT Act prescribes the formula used to compute the annual payments based on annually adjusted per-acre and population variables. Prior year Federal payments under certain revenue sharing programs, as reported annually by states, are deducted in formulating the payment amounts. A provision in the PILT Act provides temporary compensation for recent additions to the National Park System and National Forest Wilderness Areas.

The President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31) on May 5, 2017, providing funding for the 2017 PILT program. Approximately 1,900 local jurisdictions received a total of \$464.6 million in PILT payments this year.

For 2017, your county is receiving a PILT payment of \$2,375,857. If you provided current bank routing and account numbers to our Interior Business Center office or to the System of Awards Management (SAM), an electronic funds transfer was posted to your account on or about June 27, 2017. If you did not receive a payment or require further information, please refer to www.doi.gov/pilt. The website includes information on how to register in SAM to expedite receipt of future PILT payments. If you have any questions, please contact the PILT Program Manager, Ms. Dionna Kiernan, at (202) 513-7783.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

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