

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** MACO  
**Subject:** PILT and SRS End of the Year Update

**From:** Harold Blattie  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 12:11 PM  
**To:** MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: PILT and SRS End of the Year Update

Commissioners,

Update on PILT and SRS from NACo.

Harold Blattie, MACO Executive Director  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jonathan Shuffield <JShuffield@naco.org>  
**Date:** December 22, 2017 at 11:43:39 AM MST  
**To:** Jonathan Shuffield <JShuffield@naco.org>  
**Subject:** PILT and SRS End of the Year Update

Good afternoon WIR Board of Directors and PLSC Members,  
As we near the end of the year, we wanted to provide you with another update on two issues that continue to be top priorities for NACO members—PILT and SRS.

### **Status of PILT**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, passed by Congress on May 4 and signed into law on May 5, 2017, fully funded PILT at \$465 million for the remainder of FY 2017. Although both the House and Senate Interior and Environment Appropriations bills have proposed \$465 million for PILT in FY 2018, Congress has not yet acted to finalize the FY 2018 appropriations process. Additionally, Congress has asked the U.S. Department of the Interior to recalculate the full PILT funding amount for FY 2018. PILT is currently funded at FY 2017 levels through a continuing resolution (CR) that expires on January 19. Congress is currently expected to finalize an omnibus appropriations package for the rest of FY 2018 next month.

### **Status of SRS**

The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program expired in September 2015 and has not been reauthorized. Forest counties received their last SRS payments in calendar year 2016. On May 3, Senators Orrin Hatch (UT) and Ron Wyden (OR) introduced S. 1027, legislation to reauthorize SRS for two years, and ensure payments for FY2016 and FY2017. Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) and Suzanne Bonamici (OR) introduced a House version of the same bill, H.R. 2340.

NACo supports these efforts to reauthorize SRS. H.R. 2340 currently has 56 cosponsors, and S. 1027 has 29 cosponsors. NACo urges you to contact your elected officials, and ask them to cosponsor and support SRS reauthorization.

We will continue to work diligently to include SRS reauthorization in a must-pass spending bill in January. Several members of Congress have been working to identify offsets to pay for a reauthorization bill, and ensure its inclusion in a final spending package.

#### **Complications between PILT and SRS**

According to U.S. Department of Interior staff, Congress is so late on SRS reauthorization that even if they reauthorize it through a larger bill this month or next, we could still be looking at the PILT calamity we've been warning about – wherein SRS payments would not be deducted as “prior year payments” when calculating PILT, resulting in dramatic changes in the PILT payments many counties would receive.

The House and Senate SRS bills stipulate that, if reauthorized, SRS payments will be counted as FY 2016 and FY 2017 payments, but that language may not be enough to fix PILT calculations for FY 2018. NACo has been in touch with the Department of the Interior and congressional leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this issue, including a legislative fix to direct the Department on how to calculate these specific payments as they relate to FY 2018 PILT payments.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan Shuffield**

**Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands and the Western Interstate Region**

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March 3 – 7, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

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