



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 17, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Capitol H-218  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Capitol S-131  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, Chairman Byrd,  
Congressman Lewis and Senator Cochran:

As you conference on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill for FY 2007 (Supplemental) to fund vital government programs, we urge you to support the Senate passed language to reauthorize and fully fund the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393) and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program (PILT). The Senate language was passed with an overwhelming majority, 74-23, and carries with it a full offset.

P.L. 106-393 expired at the end of September 2006, endangering the loss of payments to over 600 counties and 4400 school districts in 39 states. The Senate passed language would further benefit these communities by fully funding, for the first time, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, which provides general funds to 49 states. Both of these programs are critical to the western United States. The elimination of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act would default on the 100 year old federal commitment to our rural communities that depend on these payments to keep their communities strong and stable. Fully funding PILT, for the first time ever, would provide much needed economic stability for the rural communities that support our public lands.

The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable David Obey  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
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Please support the Senate passed reauthorization language of P.L. 106-393. Thank you for your leadership on these crucial issues.


Sincerely,



Sarah Palin  
Governor of Alaska



Janet Napolitano  
Governor of Arizona



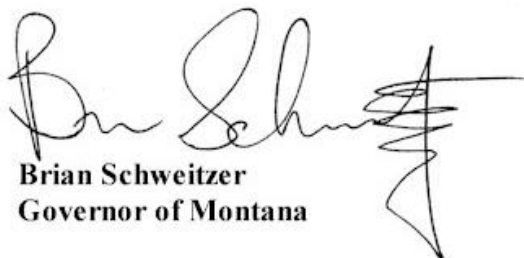
Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California



Bill Ritter  
Governor of Colorado



C. L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho



Brian Schweitzer  
Governor of Montana



Jim Gibbons  
Governor of Nevada

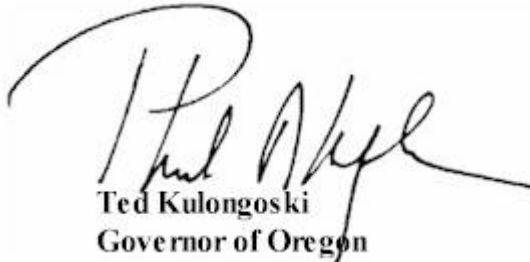


Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico

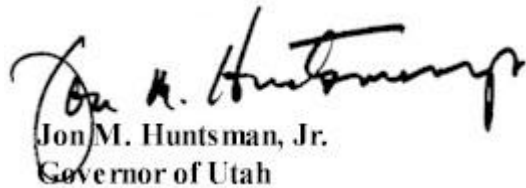
The Honorable Harry Reid  
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The Honorable Thad Cochran  
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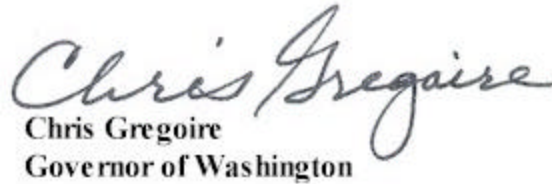
Brad Henry  
Governor of Oklahoma



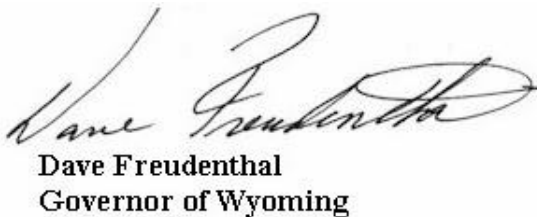
Ted Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon



Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.  
Governor of Utah



Chris Gregoire  
Governor of Washington



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor of Wyoming