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**Heller Welcomes $27 Million in PILT Payments to Help Nevada Communities Maintain Critical Public Services**

*Nevada Communities Receive an Increase of $800,000 in PILT Payments*

**WASHINGTON –** A strong advocate for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Nevada communities that benefit from it,U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today welcomed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s announcement that 17 local governments in Nevada are receiving a total of $26,987,166 under the 2018 PILT program, an increase of $802,376 from the previous fiscal year.

The PILT program makes it possible for local governments to maintain essential services in lieu of the ability to economically develop and tax federal land. Approximately 85 percent of Nevada’s land is owned by the federal government, and all of Nevada’s counties are burdened with management activities on federal lands—and the PILT program has properly reimbursed all 17 of Nevada’s counties for this important work. [Heller has continuously stressed the importance of the PILT Program to Secretary Zinke](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b1a0ea40-6c3c-4ce9-ada7-2aaa6a5bfe04/04202017%20Letter%20to%20Zinke%20on%20PILT%20and%20SNPLMA.pdf) and has repeatedly advocated for its [permanent reauthorization](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/5/heller-advocates-for-permanent-authorization-of-pilt-program).

“Given that 85 percent of Nevada’s lands are managed by the federal government, the PILT program makes it possible for communities in Nevada to maintain critical public services across large swaths of federal land,” **said Heller**. “That is why I welcome the Department of the Interior’s announcement that Nevada will receive nearly $27 million in PILT payments, and increase of more than $800,000 from last year. This additional funding will help ensure that Nevada’s rural communities can continue to provide public services such as law enforcement and road maintenance. As a strong supporter of the PILT program, I thank Secretary Zinke for recognizing my state’s needs and reaffirming his commitment to Nevada’s rural communities.”

“Local communities contribute significantly to our nation's economy, food and energy supply, and help define the character of our diverse and beautiful country,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “These investments often serve as a lifeline for local communities as they juggle planning and paying for basic services like public safety, fire-fighting, social services and transportation.”

[According to the U.S. Department of Interior](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/local-communities-receive-record-5528-million-pilt), the total allocation under the 2018 PILT program is the largest amount ever allocated in the program’s 40-year history.

“These investments are one of the ways the federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “President Trump has made job creation and opportunity in rural areas a top priority for his Administration and strongly supported the PILT program.”

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