“Nevada’s rural counties should be able to depend on these resources every year without controversy and should not be held hostage to an unstable budget process. PILT is not a discretionary fund to be used for other purposes. It is an obligation the federal government has to any county with public lands.  I am pleased to work with Senator Udall on this proposal which ends uncertainty and ensures our local governments are able to deliver critical services for Nevadans,” said Senator Dean Heller.

**Bipartisan Momentum Grows to Reauthorize, Fund PILT Program Critical to Western Communities**

*Bipartisan Udall-Heller Bill Would Permanently Reauthorize, Fund PILT Program, Payments that Benefit Rural Counties*

Citing the growing momentum for reauthorizing and funding the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program, U.S. Senators Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.) urged their colleagues to swiftly pass their bipartisan bill to strengthen the program. Heller co-sponsored the legislation today, calling it essential for ending uncertainty among rural counties.

Udall introduced the bill earlier this week to support cities and towns throughout Colorado, Nevada and Rocky Mountain West that count on the PILT program to fund public safety, fire-protection, education and other essential services. The bill would permanently authorize and fund the PILT program and ensure that rural leaders are not left in budget limbo every year due to the uncertainty of the Congressional budget process.

**UDALL QUOTE**

**HELLER QUOTE**

[The PILT program](http://www.doi.gov/pilt/index.cfm) issues federal payments to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal land within their jurisdictions. The program's payments compensate these communities for their support and for foregoing tax revenues from these federal lands. The formula used to calculate payments is based on population, receipt sharing payments and the amount of federal land within an affected county.