

From: Graham Knaus <gknaus@counties.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:01 PM

To: Graham Knaus <gknaus@counties.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] REMINDER: National Center for Public Lands Counties

To: CSAC Board of Directors
County Administrative Officers/Executive Officers
Deputy County Administrative Officers/Executive Officers

From: CSAC Officers
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County, WIR Board Member
Graham Knaus, CSAC CEO

RE: National Center for Public Lands Counties

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Interstate Regions (WIR) Boards of Directors have established the National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center). The Center was created as a 501 (c)(3) organization to give public lands counties an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous United States. The Center will utilize traditional and new media—such as podcasts and video interviews—to tell these stories and also develop detailed, individual research and written county profiles. Counties know that telling our stories is our most powerful tool in bringing resources and attention to our communities. CSAC is working with NACo to ensure that the Center emphasizes the importance of both recreation economies and extraction based public lands. The Center will report to the NACo and WIR Board of Directors on its financial health and issue an annual report on research and progress at the annual WIR Conference.

The Center has been developed through a small WIR working group that includes Supervisor John Peters, Mono County, who is the CSAC representative on the WIR Board. The timing of creation of The Center is linked to the once-in-a-generation doubling of the typical annual Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) funding that is directly due to the extensive advocacy efforts of NACo during ARPA negotiations.

To fund this once-in-a-generation opportunity, NACo and the WIR Boards are requesting counties make a one-time contribution to get the Center up and running. While each county may decide if and how much they would like to contribute, the requested amount is equivalent to one percent of each county's allocation under the [Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund \(LATCF\)](#), which was awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). County contributions will be collected through CSAC and passed along to NACo.

Should your County support making a voluntary contribution of funds, please indicate the level of commitment. In case helpful, the requested one percent contribution amounts for each county are itemized here.

The WIR Board will consider whether there are sufficient commitments to create a sustainable endowment to do the work of The Center, which is outlined here.

We would appreciate it if your Board would consider a contribution prior to the WIR Board meeting to be held May 17, 2023.

Please reach out should you have any questions.

Thanks so much,

Graham Knaus

CEO

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