



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Mokey Simon – District 1
Jeff Smith – District 2
Jim Steele – District 3
Tina Scott – District 4
Rob Brown – District 5

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 58 (McGuire) – Wildlife Management Areas: Payment of Taxes and Assessments -
SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for your Senate Bill 58 relating to State Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Many of California's counties that contain State wildlife management areas also have a significant amount of federal and other State owned land within their boundaries that do not generate property tax revenues, an important source of revenue to fund local programs and services for county residents. California PILT was established in 1949 to offset adverse impacts to county property tax revenues that result when the State acquires private property for wildlife management areas.

The 2015-16 State Budget Package changed Fish and Game Code Section 1504 to make future State PILT payments permissive by changing the 'shall' pay to 'may' pay. SB 58 will return the 'may' back to 'shall' effective January 1, 2019.

While appreciates that the Brown Administration included funding in the State Budget for State PILT for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 fiscal years following more than a decade of non-payment, and has proposed to fund State PILT in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, future Administrations may well choose to simply not make State PILT payments - leaving counties without recourse due to the now permissive nature of the language. SB 58 is a bipartisan effort setting an implementation date of January 1, 2019 to ensure future Administrations recognize this commitment to counties both today and in the future.

As you are well aware, due to the wildfire disasters of 2015 and 2016, Lake County is facing very difficult fiscal times. Any loss of ongoing funding, including PILT, will only further complicate our already challenging circumstances.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors greatly appreciates your continued leadership on this issue of fairness to the 36 State PILT counties and looks forward to its successful passage.

Sincerely,

Jeff Smith, Chair

Cc: Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Rural County Representatives of California