

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN


Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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WV RECEIVES \$800,000 IN FEDERAL LAND PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that West Virginia has received \$813,342 for the current year from the federal government under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

The payments, commonly referred to as "PILT" monies, are distributed to local units of government to offset the fiscal impacts caused by the presence of federal lands such as national park units and national forests.

Rahall, who is active on land issues, said that as federal holdings increase in West Virginia due to the expansion of the national park system such as at the New River Gorge National River, PILT payments will also increase.

"This program gives us the opportunity to increase our recreational and tourism potential through activities such as establishing national park units while ensuring that local units of government are provided with the financial assistance for activities such as fire and police protection, search and rescue operations and road construction," Rahall said.

The following counties received "PILT" funds from the federal government:

Cabell	\$1,066
Raleigh	3,169
Wyoming	11,203
Wayne	26,814
Mingo	2,675

Mercer, McDowell and Logan Counties did not receive any funds for there are no federal lands in those counties.



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For Release September 29, 1987

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HODEL ANNOUNCES OVER \$100 MILLION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR TAX EXEMPT LANDS

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel today announced that payments totalling \$104,586,493 have been transmitted to 1,917 local government units across the country in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976.

The annual payments, commonly referred to as "PILT" payments, are distributed to eligible units of local governments by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to offset the fiscal impacts caused by the presence of certain tax-exempt lands within local government boundaries.

These payments are significant to local governments, especially in our Nation's more sparsely populated counties that contain large acreages of federal lands, Hodel said, adding that "these worthwhile payments clearly illustrate the Administration's continuing commitment to local government in spite of a policy of fiscal restraint."

The BLM administers the PILT program because it is the largest single federal land-management agency, with responsibility for over 300 million acres of public lands.

"Tax-exempt federal lands include many different types of land all of us value, but their existence can have fiscal impacts on the governmental units that surround them. This partnership is the federal government's way of minimizing those impacts," Hodel added. "These payments help local governmental units provide fire and police protection, search and rescue operations, road construction and other vital services. The recipients may use the funds for any governmental purpose."

In-Lieu payments go to local governments for tax-exempt federal lands administered by BLM and for National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges. The payments also can apply to federal water projects and some military installations. These monies supplement revenues from oil and gas and sales of minerals, timber and other materials and products derived from public lands which the federal government also shares with State governments.

(more)

Including the current payment, more than one billion dollars have been returned to local governments since the program began.

With the exception of Rhode Island, all States, plus Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are receiving PILT funds this year. The States whose counties will collectively receive the largest are: California, \$11,058,651; New Mexico, \$10,618,667; Utah, \$9,896,722; Arizona, \$8,465,658; Montana, \$8,398,123; Idaho, \$7,828,410; Wyoming, \$7,529,799; Colorado, \$6,394,950; and Nevada, \$5,804,131.

Following is a State-by-State breakdown of the FY 1987 payments:

Alabama	\$ 115,059	Nebraska	\$ 330,116
Alaska	\$ 5,179,705	Nevada	\$ 5,804,131
Arizona	\$ 8,465,658	New Hampshire	\$ 217,019
Arkansas	\$ 1,100,286	New Jersey	\$ 30,341
California	\$11,058,651	New Mexico	\$10,618,667
Colorado	\$ 6,394,950	New York	\$ 58,693
Connecticut	\$ 23,900	North Carolina	\$ 1,285,613
Delaware	\$ 4,590	North Dakota	\$ 563,659
District of Columbia	\$ 5,165	Ohio	\$ 187,563
Florida	\$ 1,103,370	Oklahoma	\$ 758,674
Georgia	\$ 704,486	Oregon	\$ 2,885,470
Hawaii	\$ 9,406	Pennsylvania	\$ 203,755
Idaho	\$ 7,828,410	Rhode Island	\$ 0
Illinois	\$ 294,868	South Carolina	\$ 125,255
Indiana	\$ 148,704	South Dakota	\$ 1,760,765
Iowa	\$ 126,214	Tennessee	\$ 515,207
Kansas	\$ 335,155	Texas	\$ 1,272,376
Kentucky	\$ 596,221	Utah	\$ 9,896,722
Louisiana	\$ 173,007	Vermont	\$ 241,912
Maine	\$ 63,760	Virginia	\$ 1,053,534
Maryland	\$ 34,345	Washington	\$ 1,914,740
Massachusetts	\$ 61,514	West Virginia	\$ 813,342
Michigan	\$ 1,342,815	Wisconsin	\$ 437,581
Minnesota	\$ 854,769	Wyoming	\$ 7,529,799
Mississippi	\$ 388,492	Puerto Rico	\$ 7,677
Missouri	\$ 1,177,338	Virgin Island	\$ 82,432
Montana	\$ 8,398,123	Guam	\$ 2,489