

COUNTY OF NEVADA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Julie Patterson Hunter,  
Clerk of the Board

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 Nevada 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 Nevada County 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.

Specifically, as of February 2017, Nevada County remains owed delinquent PILT payments approximately over \$330,000, including penalty and fees. And while this is a drop in the bucket for the State, it can go a long way for rural counties to fund vital services as public safety, road and bridge repairs and safety net programs for vulnerable citizens.

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City CA 95959-8617  
phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: [bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us)  
website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos>

Letter to CA State Senator Mike McGuire  
Re: SB 58  
February 14, 2017  
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Nevada 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,

Hank Weston  
Board of Supervisors, Chair

Copied to:     Senator Ted Gaines, California Senate District 1  
                  Assemblymember Brain Dahle, California Assembly District 1  
                  Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)  
                  California State Association of Counties (CSAC)