



## RESOLUTION NO. 15-09-04

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE FULL MANDATORY FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was established in 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the federal government and to the users of federal lands located within a county; and

**WHEREAS**, Gila County, Arizona is comprised of 3,069,101 acres of which 1,756,339 acres (57.2%) is held by the federal government and unavailable for economic development and not part of the property tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, Gila County also contains 1,158,102 acres (37.7%) of American Indian tribal lands and 31,463 acres (1%) of State of Arizona lands leaving only 123,196 acres (4%) in private (taxable) ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, the national average PILT payment in Fiscal Year 2014 was \$0.72 per acre, far below the amount federal lands would return through both value based taxation and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, \$37 million of the Fiscal Year 2015 payments have yet to be released, placing added financial pressure on Gila County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, Gila County is required to provide law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other community services on, or associated with tax-exempt federal public lands; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden of providing services on federal lands squarely on the back of Gila County tax payers, while the presence of that federal land creates barriers to further economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to provide mandatory PILT funding to Arizona counties in a timely manner will critically impact the budget process and structural solvency of Gila County, and substantially compromise the county's ability to provide essential services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Supervisors of Gila County hereby respectfully requests that the United States Congress provide full mandatory funding to the PILT program for Fiscal Year 2016 without delay, and work to find a long-term funding solution for the future.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2015, at Globe, Gila County, Arizona

**Attest:**

**GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marian Sheppard, Clerk

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Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

**Approved as to form:**

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Jefferson R. Dalton  
Deputy Gila County Attorney  
Civil Bureau Chief