

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: The Importance of Including Payments in Lieu of Taxes for EM in the DOE  
FY 2023 Budget**

Dear Secretary Granholm,

On behalf of the School Boards for North Franklin, Paterson, Prosser, Richland, and other rural school districts in Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties in Washington state, the undersigned are writing to request the Department of Energy (“DOE”) include Payments in Lieu of Taxes (“PILT”) payments in the FY 2023 DOE budget request for Environmental Management (“EM”). PILT payments support our schools. It is critical to our communities that DOE ensures the continuation of PILT in future budget requests. We believe this request is consistent with the President’s Environmental Justice commitment.

Last year, the President’s budget did not support PILT funding for our communities adjacent to the EM-led Hanford Site. Luckily, the House and Senate overwhelmingly supported our communities. We appreciate that DOE supports this initiative but understand that the Office of Management and Budget may have cut the funding for one of the sites impacted by the largest environmental cleanup projects in the country.

Not including EM PILT funds in this year’s budget will cut essential funding for our communities at a critical time. PILT payments support our vital local government functions and are used to provide municipal services at the Hanford Site at levels, and in quantities, that otherwise far outstrip some of our communities’ tax bases. Even so, PILT payments are equal to only a fraction of what private companies and employees would contribute to local tax revenues for similar land, improvements, and service usage. Without PILT payments, our communities would lack the ability to educate children – including the children of the people that undertake the critical environmental cleanup at the Hanford Site – provide emergency services, replace aging infrastructure, and attract investments needed to sustain legacy environmental cleanup at the site.

As the host communities of one of our national security and defense missions, we ask for your assistance and support in ensuring that future DOE budget requests, including for FY 2023, include sufficient funding for PILT payments to our communities and to all DOE-impacted communities currently eligible for receipt. We also ask that DOE continue to advocate for the inclusion of PILT payments to the Office of Management and Budget.

We believe the Administration readily supports the funding necessary for DOE to disperse PILT payments to the communities wherein they operate. At your request, we would be happy to

provide additional information on the necessary functions that PILT payments serve in our local communities.

Sincerely,



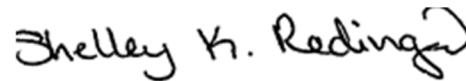
Jim Jacobs  
Superintendent  
North Franklin School District



Monica Burnett  
Superintendent  
Paterson School District



Matt Ellis  
Superintendent  
Prosser School District



Shelley Redinger, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Richland School District

Cc: Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator for the State of Washington  
Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator for the State of Washington  
Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative for District 4, WA  
Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative for District 5, WA  
Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Representative for District 6, WA  
Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. Representative for District 9, WA  
Honorable Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senator for South Carolina  
Honorable Timothy Scott, U.S. Senator for South Carolina  
Honorable James E. Clyburn, U.S. Representative for District 6, SC  
Honorable Joe Wilson, U.S. Representative for District 2, SC  
William "Ike" White, Senior Advisor for the Office of Environmental Management, DOE  
Brian Vance, Hanford Site Manager, DOE  
Rick Osbon, Mayor, City of Aiken, SC  
Clay Killian, County Administrator, Aiken County, SC  
Chuck Smith, Former Councilmember, Aiken County, SC  
J. William Goodson, County Administrator, Allendale County, SC  
Tim Bennett, County Administrator, Barnwell County, SC  
Ben Kinlaw, Councilmember, Barnwell County, SC  
Rick McLeod, President, Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization  
Bill McKay, Mayor, City of Kennewick, WA  
Blanche Barajas, Mayor, City of Pasco, WA  
Michael Alvarez, Mayor, City of Richland, WA

Brent Gerry, Mayor/CEO, City of West Richland, WA  
Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager, Benton County, WA  
Keith Johnson, County Administrator, Franklin County, WA  
David Reeploeg, Executive Director, Hanford Communities, WA