



® March 28, 2017

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The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 58 (McGuire) – Wildlife management areas: payment of taxes and assessments  
As introduced December 12, 2016 – SUPPORT  
Set to Be Heard April 3, 2017 – Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Lara:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) supports SB 58 by Senator Mike McGuire, a measure related to Payment in Lieu of Taxes funding.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) operates wildlife management areas throughout the state. Existing law (Fish and Game Code §1504) allows DFW to compensate counties for loss property taxes and assessments as a result of the establishment of a wildlife management area. These “payments in-lieu of taxes” (PILT) are equal to the county taxes levied upon the property at the time the state acquired the property plus any assessments levied upon the property by any irrigation, drainage, or reclamation district.

SB 58 would reverse a change in PILT statute that makes the program permissive rather than required. The 2015-16 final State Budget Package changed Fish and Game Code Section 1504 to make State PILT payments permissive by changing the 'shall' pay to 'may' pay. SB 58 will return the 'may' back to 'shall.'

While CSAC appreciates the inclusion of funding in the State Budget for PILT in recent fiscal years after more than a decade of non-payment, we are concerned that future Administrations may choose to simply not make State PILT payments. SB 58 will help ensure that PILT payments are made to counties both today and in the future.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 58. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact me at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cara Martinson'.

Cara Martinson  
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate  
Senate Bill 58 Co-Authors: Senators Dodd, Nielsen and Roth; Assembly Members Bigelow,  
Dahle and Wood  
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Narisha Bonakdar, Senate Appropriations Committee Consultants  
Todd Moffitt, Republican Consultant