April 5, 2016

The Honorable Fran Pavley
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1188 (McGuire) – Wildlife Management Areas: Payment of Taxes and Assessments - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pavley:

On behalf of the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1188, authored by Senator McGuire (D-Healdsburg), 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.

Last year’s final 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 1188 will return the ‘may’ back to ‘shall’.

While Glenn County appreciates that the Brown Administration included funding in the State Budget for PILT for the 2015-16 fiscal year after more than a decade of non-payment, and has proposed to fund State PILT in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, future Administration’s may well choose to simply not make State PILT payments - leaving counties without recourse due to the now permissive nature of the language. SB 1188 will help ensure that State PILT payments are made to counties both today and in the future.

Specifically in Glenn County the State has purchased more and more properties over time both directly and through surrogates. On an annual basis, the missing tax payments to the County now total $74,102.80 per year. This figure does not include any acknowledgment that most of the properties would have appreciated by 2% per year over the State’s ownership period, the Gann limit. Finally, last year’s County payment was decremented for payments made by the State to education. The formula was never provided, and the County was presented with a payment of $17,745.00, or $0.24 on the dollar.

The Glenn County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your ‘Aye’ vote when the bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LEIGH W. MCDANIEL, Chairman

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
Committee Consultant
Senator McGuire
Senator Jim Nielsen
Assembly Member James Gallagher

Republican Consultant
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

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