



County Supervisors Association of Arizona

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Paul Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gosar:

We are writing to convey our support for the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (HR 596), which you have introduced in the House. This legislation proposes to return to counties across the country a portion of the royalty revenues from renewable energy leases on federal land.

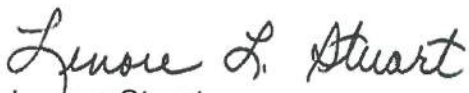
We commend the proposed leasing system that shares royalty revenues from renewable energy projects on federal land with the states and counties. This provision is extremely important to counties because they absorb additional staff time and capital costs from permitting and siting these types of developments. Currently, the only forms of reimbursement counties receive from federal lands are the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRSCSDA) funds, which are subject to sequestration and have not yet been reauthorized for fiscal year 2014. With this recognition of an uncompensated increased burden on counties and by returning revenue to the counties through renewable energy lease systems, this legislation will support county governments in affected areas with delivering critical government services and making critical infrastructure improvements in support of these activities.

The County Supervisors Association of Arizona continues to support responsible development of renewable energy projects and the resulting job growth for our local communities. The shared revenue from renewable energy development projects can be used by counties to support land, wildlife, and water management issues in affected areas.

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We would like to thank you for introducing this important and timely piece of legislation. Our counties are willing and eager to help meet the growing energy needs of the nation, while ensuring our local communities receive the vital resources they desperately need.

On behalf of the County Supervisors Association,



Lenore Stuart
President
Supervisor, Yuma County



Jim Palmer
President-elect
Supervisor, Graham County



Mary Rose Wilcox
First Vice-president
Supervisor, Maricopa County



Mandy Metzger
Second Vice-president
Supervisor, Coconino County



Tommie Cline Martin
Third Vice-president
Supervisor, Gila County



Craig A. Sullivan
Executive Director
County Supervisors Association
of Arizona