First District

**JANET WOLF** Second District, Vice Chair

DOREEN FARR

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District

**STEVE LAVAGNINO** 

Fifth District, Chair



# **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

County Administration Building 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

June 12, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the attached letters to Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Minority Member Conyers of the House Judiciary Committee, asking them to take action on H.R. 4165, the *Justice For All Reauthorization Act*, or similar legislation that would reauthorize the provisions of the 2004 Justice for All Act.

The original Justice For All Act improved support services for crime victims and provided important tools and assistance to help state and local governments use DNA evidence to convict guilty offenders and exonerate the innocent. The *Justice For All Reauthorization Act* would extend the authorization of these programs, including the Crime Victims' Rights Act, the Debbie Smith Act, the Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Grant Program, and the Innocence Protection Act. In doing so it would improve support services for crime victims, as well as enhancing state and local governments' use of DNA evidence. In particular, the County supports provisions that would enable the Attorney General to award grants to units of local governments under the Capital Representation Improvement Grants and the Capital Prosecution Improvement Grants programs, rather than exclusively to States.

The Justice For All Act has provided valuable resources for local governments such as Santa Barbara County in its efforts to provide support for crime victims, and in its use of DNA evidence to improve the effectiveness of its public safety responsibilities. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Judiciary Committee to take action on H.R. 4165 or similar legislation that would reauthorize and strengthen the Justice For All Act.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters

Washington Representative

First District

#### JANET WOLF

Second District, Vice Chair

#### **DOREEN FARR**

Third District

# **PETER ADAM**

Fourth District

#### STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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www.countyofsb.org

### **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

June 19, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps U.S. House of Representatives 2231 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

## Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letters to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Minority Member Conyers, expressing the support of Santa Barbara County for H.R. 3465, the *Second Chance Act Reauthorization Act*.

As a result of the recent realignment by the State of California, the population of inmates in the Ventura County jail has risen substantially, and the Probation Department's workload has also increased dramatically. Many of these individuals struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues. Resources for re-entry and anti-recidivism activities at the local level are critical to transitioning them back into society. The Second Chance Act authorizes such resources.

The most recent Second Chance Act authorization expired on September 30, 2010. While Congress has continued to fund the Act's programs through the annual appropriations process, it is important that it be reauthorized as soon as possible to ensure that it continues to offer needed re-entry resources to local governments such as the County. Please consider cosponsoring H.R. 3465, and urge your colleagues who serve on the Judiciary Committee to expedite action on the bill or similar legislation that would reauthorize the Second Chance Act. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Enclosures

First District

JANET WOLF

Second District, Vice Chair

**DOREEN FARR** 

Third District

PETER ADAM

Third District, Vice Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

County Administration Building 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

July 9, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps U.S. House of Representatives 2231 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors in support of legislation to extend the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

The County strongly supports including an extension of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program in the *FY 2015 Interior-Environment Appropriations Act*. Inclusion of \$442 million for the PILT program through a one-year extension of mandatory funding will help offset the impacts of national forests and other public lands in the County, such as the costs of search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance.

Attached for your information are letters I have sent to House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Moran urging their support for this program.

Please work with your colleagues who serve on the Committee to ensure mandatory funding for PILT in FY 2015.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters

Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

Attachments

First District

JANET WOLF

Second District, Vice Chair

**DOREEN FARR** 

Third District

PETER ADAM

Third District, Vice Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA** 

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

County Administration Building 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell Secretary of the Interior 1849 C Street NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to request an extension of at least 60 days for the comment period for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Proposed Rule published May 29, 2014, which would revise regulations governing the process and criteria by which the Secretary acknowledges an Indian tribe.

The proposed regulations are very detailed and complex, and require an in-depth analysis of the changes they would make to the long-established rules governing tribal acknowledgment. The State of California is home to 109 federally recognized tribes, and the proposed regulations would have a very significant impact as a result of the dozens of acknowledgment petitions that are currently pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The acknowledgement process can be a precursor to Tribes taking land into trust for gaming and other non-gaming development. Because of this, counties such as Santa Barbara have a significant interest in these regulations because the removal of land from state and local jurisdiction could have a significant impact on the land use authority of local governments.

Due to the importance of Proposed Rule, it is imperative that all affected parties and the general public be allowed sufficient time to review and comment on it. Please consider extending the existing comment period by at least 60 days to enable this to take place. I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters

Vom Walter

Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

First District

JANET WOLF

Second District, Vice Chair

**DOREEN FARR** 

Third District

**PETER ADAM** 

Third District, Vice Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Chair

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA** 

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

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www.countyofsb.org

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Lois Capps U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I have sent the enclosed letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on behalf of the County, asking her grant an extension of at least 60 days for the comment period for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Proposed Rule published May 29, 2014, which would revise regulations governing the process and criteria by which the Secretary acknowledges an Indian tribe.

The proposed regulations are very detailed and complex, and require an in-depth analysis of the changes they would make to the long-established rules governing tribal acknowledgment. The State of California is home to 109 federally recognized tribes, and the proposed regulations would have a very significant impact in the State as a result of the dozens of acknowledgment petitions that are currently pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Since the acknowledgement process can be a precursor to Tribes taking land into trust for gaming and other non-gaming development, counties such as Santa Barbara have a significant interest in these regulations because the removal of land from state and local jurisdiction could have a significant impact on the land use authority of local governments.

Due to the significance of the Proposed Rule, it is important that all affected parties and the general public be allowed sufficient time to review and comment on it. Please urge Secretary Jewell to extend the existing comment period by at least 60 days to enable this to take place.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters

Vom Waller

Washington Representative

TPW:jaw