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This week's highlights:

- [Marketplace Fairness Act Introduced in Senate](#)
- [House Municipal Bond "Dear Colleague" Deadline Extended](#)
- [Urge your Representative to Sign House "Dear Colleague" in Support of Payments in Lieu of Taxes](#)
- [Comment Period for Proposed Ozone Rule Closes Next Week](#)

Webinars

NACo Webinar: What to Look for in 2015 County Health Rankings

March 19, 2015
[Register](#)

FCC Webinar: Net Neutrality and Muni Broadband

March 30, 2015
[Register](#)

Upcoming Events

2015 Western Interstate Region Conference

May 20-22, 2015
Kauai County, Hawaii
[Register](#)



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Follow NACo Online



Top federal decision-makers, including Vice President Joe Biden, addressed NACo members at the Legislative Conference. View the videos on our [YouTube](#) page!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Marketplace Fairness Act Introduced in Senate

On March 10, the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) of 2015 (S. 698) was introduced in the Senate. Similar to the legislation passed in 2013, the bill would allow state and local governments the ability to enforce existing sales tax laws, which in turn would enable Main Street retailers to compete on a level playing field against out-of-state Internet retailers. Legislation that would allow the collection of sales taxes on remote sales has been a longstanding priority for NACo. [More](#)

House Municipal Bond "Dear Colleague" Deadline Extended

Earlier this month, Reps. Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.) and Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.) circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of tax-exempt municipal bonds. The letter urges Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to support municipal bonds and oppose proposals that would cap or eliminate the deduction for municipal bond interest. This week, Reps. Hultgren and Ruppersberger announced that they are extending the deadline for signatures to March 26, 2015. NACo has been working closely with congressional staff to move this effort forward. [More](#)

Urge your Representative to Sign House in Support of Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Reps. Christ Stewart (R-Utah), Jared Polis (D-Colo.), Sean Duffy (R-Wis) and Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz) are circulating a "Dear Colleague" on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), urging House leadership to work in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral fashion to secure full funding for the PILT program for fiscal FY 2016 and beyond. PILT helps compensate counties' revenue lost due to tax-exempt federal lands within their boundaries. PILT is extremely beneficial to counties as it provides payments to counties in 49 states and nearly 1,900 of the nation's 3,609 counties. [More](#)

Justice "Dear Colleagues" Circulating in House and Senate

Earlier this month, several House and Senate members began circulating "Dear Colleague" letters in support of funding for several justice-related bills including the Second Chance Act (SCA), the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act (JMHCA) and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. All of these bills pertain to justice-involved individuals. NACo members are encouraged to reach out to their House and Senate members and urge them to sign the "Dear Colleague" circulating in their respective chamber. [More](#)

FEDERAL NEWS

Comment Period for Proposed Ozone Rule Closes Next Week

On December 17, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new proposed rule—National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone—that would tighten current federal air pollution rules and increase the number of counties impacted by the proposed rule. While the 1997 ozone standard of 80 parts per billion (ppb) is still used across the country, the proposed rule would tighten the current ozone standard to a range of 65 to 70 ppb. NACo opposes implementation of EPA's proposed 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone until the 2008 NAAQS for ozone have been fully implemented. [More](#)

FCC to Host Webinar on Net Neutrality and Municipal Broadband

On March 12, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its order on net neutrality, reclassifying broadband as a "telecommunications service" and creating new rules for broadband service providers. The FCC also granted two petitions to preempt state laws restricting community broadband. While NACo does not take a

position on net neutrality, it opposes efforts to restrict or prohibit county or municipal ownership of communications facilities. [More](#)

NEWS FROM NACO

2015 NACo Achievement Awards Now Open For Submissions

Deadline: March 27, 2015

NACo is currently accepting nominations for the 2015 Achievement Awards. For forty-five years NACo has recognized innovative programs in county government through the Achievement Awards Program. The awards provide an opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience and share best practices with their partners and peers. As a non-competitive awards program, each application is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Awards are given in 21 different categories culminating with an awards celebration at the 2015 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. For more information on the application process, deadlines and program criteria, please see the promotional materials [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars for the 2015 Western Interstate Region Conference

Registration has already begun for NACo's 2015 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, taking place May 20-22 in Kaua'i County, Hawai'i! The conference will focus on the new political landscape within our nation's capital. There are at least 74 new members of Congress serving in the 114th Congress, which means nearly half of Congress will have been elected in November 2010 or later. This Congress will be making important long-term decisions and it is critical our counties be at the table for all conversations that impact local governments. [More](#)

NACo Webinar: What to Look for in 2015 County Health Rankings

On Thursday, March 19 at 2:00-3:15 p.m. EDT, join us to learn about how the County Health Rankings can serve as a tool to help improve health in your community! Learn from experts at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and one of your peer county leaders about the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. New measures and tools will be presented and will include discussion about how these resources can assist your county in its journey toward building a culture of health. Participants will also get access to embargoed data before the March 25th national release of the 2015 County Health Rankings. [More](#)

NACo on Capitol Hill

Action Alerts
Legislative Bulletin
Policy Positions

Key Groups

Board of Directors
Steering Committees
Rural Action Caucus
Large Urban County Caucus
State Associations
Affiliates

County Info & Data

County News
Jobs Online
Model County Programs
Publications
County Statistics
Find a County
Counties Work

Cost-saving Programs

U.S. Communities
Cooperative Purchasing
NACo Health & Prescription Discount Card Program
NACo Dental Discount Program
NACo Deferred Compensation Program

NACo Partnerships

Green Government Initiative
Healthy Counties Initiative
Premier Corporate Member Program
Sponsor Opportunities