



20
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CONFERENCE**



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Proposed Interim Policy Resolutions

National Association of Counties (NACo)

2025 Legislative Conference



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1 **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS STEERING COMMITTEE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Build County Resiliency Through Comprehensive**
4 **Financial Investment in Local Agriculture and Regional Food Infrastructure**
5

6 **Issue:** County governmental resources will grow as the result of federal Farm Bill policies that
7 tap private capital needed to grow farmer profits through participation in new and emerging
8 local, regional, national and global markets.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** Implementation of NACo’s “Good Food For All” policy (adopted in 2024)
11 will benefit from Congressional action to ensure that the Regional Food System Partnership
12 program achieves its purpose to leverage “significant non-federal resources.” Federal spending
13 reductions will result from county-led regional partnerships that align the goals of such entities
14 as philanthropy, and federal, commercial and Farm Credit System lending institutions. NACo
15 urges Congress to require Farm Credit System—a federal Government Sponsored Enterprise—to
16 invest 15% of annual profits to support its Congressional mandate to serve young, beginning and
17 small farmers. (Based on 2023 earnings, \$1.1 billion in non-federal seed funds would become
18 available in year one to enable counties to better withstand external shocks by diversifying the
19 food supply at a local level.)
20

21 **Background:** All U.S. counties—rural, exurban, suburban and urban—are recognizing the
22 benefits of local agriculture. Efforts to supply consumer demand for locally produced and
23 processed foods are driving improvements in soil health, water quality, public health and local
24 economies. Regional approaches to agriculture and economic development could provide the
25 basis for leveraging private investment in agri-food supply networks and infrastructure
26 supporting new sales channels for crops and livestock.
27

28 On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed the Agriculture Improvement Act authorizing
29 federal expenditures totaling a projected \$428 billion over the five year life span of the
30 legislation. This 2018 Farm Bill included authorization for USDA to establish a Regional Food
31 System Partnership program to provide grants for projects that “connect public and private
32 resources.” Congress can grow the program’s impact by requiring Farm Credit System to provide
33 sustained seed funding to support emerging local and regional agricultural innovation.
34

35 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Unite unconnected agri-food, nutrition and conservation
36 stakeholders through comprehensive funding strategies that generate measurable improvements
37 to soil health, water quality, public health and local economies.
38

39 **Sponsor(s):** Dan Butler, Board Member, Will County, Ill.; Judy Ogalla, Board Member, Will
40 County, Ill.

1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
2 **STEERING COMMITTEE**

3
4 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Community Development Block Grant – Disaster**
5 **Recovery Program Permanent Reauthorization**

6
7 **Issue:** Critical need for long-term federal funding and support for communities and residents
8 impacted by natural disasters, which are occurring more frequently and intensely.

9
10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) strongly supports permanent
11 reauthorization of the Community Block Development Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-
12 DR), to ensure collaboration between federal, state and local entities to streamline the process of
13 accessing and distributing disaster recovery funds, increasing efficiency and effectiveness of
14 resource utilization. NACo further encourages HUD to provide direct CDBG-DR allocations to
15 CDBG Entitlement Communities, thus ensuring funds are deployed to disaster-impacted counties
16 as expeditiously as possible.

17
18 **Background:** CDBG-DR grant funds are allocated by HUD following congressional
19 appropriation when necessary to support the rebuilding of disaster-affected areas and initiate
20 long-term recovery efforts. These flexible grants assist cities, counties, Indian tribes, and states in
21 recovering from Presidentially declared disasters, with a focus on low-income areas, depending
22 on the availability of supplemental appropriations. Because CDBG-DR funding can be used for a
23 wide range of recovery activities, it provides critical support to communities and neighborhoods
24 that may otherwise struggle to rebuild due to limited resources. By investing in disaster recovery
25 and mitigation, CDBG-DR strengthens local economies and enhances community resilience
26 against future emergencies.

27
28 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Permanent reauthorization of CDBG-DR is vital to addressing
29 financial and programmatic demands of disaster-impacted county governments.

30
31 **Sponsor(s):** Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, DuPage County, Ill.

32
33 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Community Development Block Grant Program**
34 **Reauthorization**

35
36 **Issue:** Support reauthorization of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
37 in order to strengthen county community investments.

38
39 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass CDBG
40 reauthorization legislation to allow increased federal support for county community development
41 initiatives, affordable housing, and economic revitalization efforts.

42
43 **Background:** Local governments use CDBG funds for critical community development
44 activities, including infrastructure improvements such as roads, water and sewer systems;
45 expanding homeownership opportunities; eliminating slum and blight; employment training;
46 business and job creation; transportation services; services at libraries, community centers, adult

1 day care and child after school care facilities; homeless housing assistance; and crime awareness
2 programs. According to HUD, every \$100 million in CDBG funding directly creates or retains
3 more than 17,000 jobs, and CDBG program resources have created over 450,000 jobs.
4 Reauthorizing CDBG is essential to empowering county governments to address critical
5 community development needs. This longstanding program supports equitable growth and
6 ensures resources reach underserved communities, fostering long-term stability and opportunity.
7

8 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Reauthorizing CDBG is vital to addressing the rising financial and
9 programmatic demands of county governments in supporting community needs.

10
11 **Sponsor(s):** Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, DuPage County, Ill.

12
13 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Ensuring Non-discrimination Practices in the Federal**
14 **Government**

15
16 **Issue:** The current administration has rescinded Executive Order 11246. In doing so, the federal
17 government no longer has programs or practices in place to ensure that there is no employment
18 or hiring discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin by political
19 subdivisions, organizations, or businesses under contract with the federal government.
20

21 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal agencies to
22 reinstall previous programs and practices to prevent discrimination by contractors that had been
23 enacted in guidance with Executive Order 11246. NACo calls on Congress to pass legislation
24 that enacts Executive Order 11246 into law and to expand the legislation to include the
25 prevention of discrimination of sex, gender, and sexual orientation into the law. Such legislation
26 would ensure that the federal government establishes requirements for non-discriminatory
27 practices and programs in hiring and employment on the part of United States government
28 contractors.
29

30 **Background:** Executive Order 11246 was initially signed by President Lydon B. Johnson in
31 1965 to apply the Equal Employment Opportunity Act to the federal government. For the last 60
32 years, the Federal Government has established requirements for non-discriminatory practices in
33 hiring and employment on the part of United States government contractors and required
34 contractors to implement affirmative actions to ensure that applicants are employed, and the
35 employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, creed, color, or national
36 origin.
37

38 For 60 years, Executive Order 11246 had been left in place by both Republican and Democratic
39 administrations to ensure that discrimination of any kind would not be accepted in the workplace
40 by the federal government. A lack of affirmative action requirements could result in fewer
41 proactive measures to address hiring and workplace diversity inequities. By enforcing
42 affirmative action policies, the executive order contributed to increased representation of
43 historically underrepresented groups within those political subdivisions, organizations, and
44 businesses under contract with the federal government.

1 The term “affirmative action” gives preferences in hiring based on some particular characteristic
2 of a person that has made them discriminated against in some way. Whereas the term “equal
3 opportunity” proposes a “blind” and neutral hiring practice that does not disadvantage or
4 discriminate against someone for an immutable characteristic.

5
6 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Making Executive Order 11246 federal law will ensure that
7 political subdivisions, organizations, and businesses under contract with the federal government
8 will have nondiscriminatory programs and practices in place to ensure that historically
9 marginalized communities are represented in the local workforce and economy.

10
11 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County,
12 N.C.; Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Wendy R. Askew,
13 County Supervisor, Monterey County, Calif.; Sarah Benatar, County Treasurer, Coconino
14 County, Ariz.; Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.; David Stout,
15 County Commissioner, El Paso, Tex.

16 17 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Homelessness Assistance**

18
19 **Issue:** Support increased assistance for homelessness assistance federal programs.

20
21 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges support from both
22 Congress and the Trump Administration for increased federal programs on homelessness
23 assistance.

24
25 **Background:** Counties play a pivotal role in delivering services and resources to individuals and
26 families experiencing homelessness, including shelter, healthcare, mental health aid, and job
27 training. However, existing federal resources are insufficient to meet the growing demand for
28 comprehensive support systems.

29
30 In its 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, HUD cited an 18.1% increase in those
31 experiencing homelessness. The report disclosed the number of people experiencing
32 homelessness on a single night in 2024 was the highest ever recorded. A total of 771,480 people
33 – or about 23 of every 10,000 people in the United States experienced homelessness in an
34 emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing program, or in unsheltered locations across
35 the country. Additionally, HUD cited about one in every five people experiencing homelessness
36 on a single night in 2024 was age 55 or older. By prioritizing homelessness prevention and
37 intervention, counties can build resilient communities and ensure residents of all ages have
38 access to stable housing and vital services.

39
40 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Increased federal assistance for homelessness programs would
41 enable communities to expand critical services such as emergency shelters, affordable housing,
42 and mental health support, helping to stabilize vulnerable populations. This investment would
43 not only reduce homelessness but also alleviate long-term social and economic costs associated
44 with housing insecurity.

45
46 **Sponsor(s):** Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, DuPage County, Ill.

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Incentivizing Production of Housing Through Federal Tax**
2 **Code**

3
4 **Issue:** Support housing production through federal tax code incentives including the expansion
5 of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program and permanent extension of the New
6 Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program.

7
8 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass
9 legislation supporting a permanent increase in LIHTC and provide a permanent extension of
10 NMTC and other enhancements to the program to allow for private sector investment and
11 economic growth in low-income communities.

12
13 **Background:** Since the program’s inception in 1986, LIHTC has financed more than three
14 million homes for low-income households, including veterans, senior citizens, individuals with
15 disabilities, and families with children. Through public-private partnerships, LIHTC provides
16 financing for safe, decent affordable homes in communities where they are most needed. LIHTC
17 is our nation’s most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and
18 preservation of affordable rental housing and is responsible for nearly all of the affordable
19 housing built and preserved in recent decades.

20
21 Key LIHTC legislative provisions supported by NACo: increase tax credit allocations by 50
22 percent over current levels to help meet the vast and growing need for affordable housing; enable
23 the tax credit to better serve hard-to-reach communities including rural, Native American, high-
24 poverty, and high-cost communities, as well as extremely low-income and formerly homeless
25 tenants; make the tax credit a more effective tool for preserving the nation’s existing affordable
26 housing inventory by simplifying and aligning rules; and lowering the threshold of Private
27 Activity Bond (PAB) financing – from 50 to 25 percent – required to trigger the maximum
28 amount of 4 percent credits; and accelerate implementation of the allocation increase from the
29 previous five years to two years, taking into account the increased and urgent need for affordable
30 housing.

31
32 The NMTC was authorized through the bipartisan Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000
33 in order to stimulate investment and economic opportunity in urban and rural low-income
34 communities that lack the resources needed to support businesses, job creation and a healthy
35 local economy. This important community development tool provides much-needed capital to the
36 most distressed communities in the nation by providing a federal tax credit to private investors.

37
38 Since its introduction, the NMTC has been an incredibly successful tool for community
39 revitalization projects. \$67 billion in NMTC allocations have leveraged over \$127 billion in total
40 investments to over 7,900 community and economic development projects since the program’s
41 inception. This investment in low-income urban and rural communities generated over 1 million
42 jobs at a cost to the government of less than \$20,000 per job. Additionally, these investments are
43 concentrated in the communities with the most need, with over 80 percent of NMTC activities
44 located in areas with severe economic distress.

1 Furthermore, the NMTC is an exemplary public-private partnership model, allowing local
2 governments, businesses, and investors to come together to make the financing decisions for
3 their community. Rural and urban areas alike use this critical resource to fund small businesses,
4 industrial centers, commercial facilities, daycares, health centers, housing and other mixed-use
5 developments. The NMTC generates a tremendous amount of economic activity through job
6 creation, economic growth and increased incomes, providing the federal government with a
7 significant return on investment. The program additionally brings in enough tax revenue to cover
8 its cost to taxpayers.

9
10 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Increasing LIHTC and securing NMTC permanence would
11 incentivize public-private partnerships that provide housing, community and economic
12 development to counties at the grassroots level.

13
14 **Sponsor(s):** Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, DuPage County, Ill.

15
16 **Proposed Interim Resolution Supporting the Use of the Federal Government’s Uniform**
17 **Appraisal Dataset in Assessments**

18
19 **Issue:** Uniform Appraisal Data contains high-quality home characteristics that could be shared
20 with all local property assessment jurisdictions to create more accurate estimates of home values
21 – and equity in property taxes – nationwide at no cost to the federal government or local
22 counties.

23
24 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the use of the Federal
25 Housing Finance Agency’s Uniform Appraisal Dataset in assessment modeling and urges the
26 U.S. federal government to make the dataset available to assessment jurisdictions across the
27 country.

28
29 **Background:** Nationwide, working-class homeowners often pay higher effective property tax
30 rates than wealthier homeowners due to regressive valuations and assessments. Recent studies
31 indicate regressive assessments are present in a majority of assessment jurisdictions. Regressive
32 assessments occur when expensive homes are under-valued (a \$1m home valued and taxed as if
33 it was worth \$800k), and more modest homes over-valued (a \$200k home valued and taxed as if
34 it was worth \$500k). Regressive assessments can cause regressive property taxes.

35
36 One root cause of regressive assessments could be incomplete or inaccurate property
37 characteristics data, such as square footage and number of bathrooms.

38
39 Local assessment offices often lack the ability and/or legal authority to maintain up-to-date
40 characteristics about interior and exterior factors that affect the estimated market values of
41 homes. Third-party providers of this data have also blocked efforts by assessors to obtain it.
42 Many assessors use an Automated Valuation Model (AVM) to estimate property values. An AVM
43 is a statistical approach to real estate valuation that uses each home’s characteristics, to calculate
44 its value based on local sale trends.

1 While counties can make improvements to their AVMs, any AVM can only perform as well as
2 the data it uses.

3
4 Parcel-level characteristics data from the Uniform Appraisal Dataset (UAD) may help assessors
5 improve residential property valuation to correct regressive assessments and ensure no
6 homeowner is paying more in property taxes than they should.

7
8 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** This policy already has the bi-partisan support of 16 assessment
9 jurisdictions including: Cook County (IL), Alameda County (CA), Broward County (FL), Dallas
10 County (TX), City of Detroit (MI), King County (WA), Los Angeles (CA), Maricopa County
11 (AZ), Mecklenberg County (NC), Miami-Dade County (FL), Palm Beach County (FL), City and
12 County of Philadelphia (PA), Sacramento County (CA), Santa Clara County (CA), Wake County
13 (NC), and Washington, DC.

14
15 These jurisdictions have been in ongoing talks with the federal government since 2021 and more
16 support is needed.

- 17
18
 - More accurate assessments (improved accuracy at the middle end of home values)
 - Fairer assessments (improved accuracy at the low- and high-end of home values)
 - Reduce property owners' need to file appeals to correct their property's assessment
 - Earn confidence in government data and service
 - Sharing this information with counties would not require a significant financial cost to the federal government. While staff time would be necessary to review legal documents outlining the use of this data, there is no significant budgetary impact.

25
26 **Sponsor(s):** Fritz Kaegi, Assessor, Cook County, Ill.; Eddie Cook, Assessor, Maricopa County,
27 Ariz.

1 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE STEERING COMMITTEE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Policy Resolution on Permitting Reform Policy**

4
5 **Issue:** The federal permitting process often neglects the county perspective. Consultation with
6 local governments is often a formality at the end of the permitting process rather than a
7 collaborative effort throughout. As lawmakers consider legislation to reform the federal
8 permitting process in the 119th Congress, county governments should consistently have a seat at
9 the table.

10
11 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass
12 legislation to reform the federal permitting process that limits federal preemption of local
13 authority and requires meaningful consultation and updates with local governments at the
14 beginning and throughout the development of critical infrastructure projects such as
15 transportation, energy, broadband deployment and air quality that require a federal permit.

16
17 **Background:** During the 118th Congress, energy permitting reform garnered significant interest
18 culminating in the favorable reporting of the bipartisan Energy Permitting Reform Act out of the
19 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in July 2024. However, no permitting
20 reform provisions were included in the end of year funding legislation due to disagreements
21 among Congressional leadership. Since taking office, President Trump has issued multiple
22 executive orders that address permitting reform, but more details are needed on the role of
23 county governments in expedited permitting processes in this new Administration.

24
25 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Reforming the federal permitting process would allow projects to
26 be completed without delays that increase overall costs.

27
28 **Sponsor(s):** Rosemarie Smallcombe, Supervisor, Mariposa County, Calif.; Randall Ryti,
29 Councilor, Los Alamos County, N.M.; Sheryl Graham, Senior Director of Human Services,
30 Monroe County, Fla.

31
32 **Proposed Interim Policy Resolution Supporting PFAS Passive Receiver Protections for**
33 **Local Governments**

34
35 **Issue:** As passive receivers of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), counties and other
36 local governments need liability protections from the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
37 Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) rule published by the U.S. Environmental
38 Protection Agency (EPA) on April 19, 2024. While the EPA's enforcement discretion policy
39 issued alongside this rule aims to alleviate direct enforcement burdens on local governments,
40 these entities may still be held liable for significant costs without explicit liability protection.

41
42 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass
43 legislation that recognizes local governments and other publicly owned utilities including but not
44 limited to water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and landfills as passive receivers
45 of PFAS and provides liability protections for local governments from the 2024 CERCLA rule.

1 NACo supports efforts to remove PFAS from the environment and consistent federal funding for
2 PFAS mitigation efforts.

3
4 **Background:** On April 19, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a rule
5 designating two types of PFAS chemicals (PFOA and PFOS) as hazardous under the
6 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This
7 rule authorizes EPA to investigate releases of PFOA and PFOS and compel parties responsible
8 for producing and releasing PFAS chemicals into the environment to clean up contaminated sites
9 or to reimburse EPA for the cost of cleanup.

10
11 EPA released a PFAS enforcement discretion policy alongside the final rule. The policy outlines
12 that EPA will focus its enforcement actions on entities that significantly contributed to the release
13 of PFOA and PFOS into the environment, including manufacturers of PFAS, parties that have
14 used PFAS in the manufacturing process, federal facilities and other industrial parties.

15
16 The enforcement discretion policy suggests that EPA does not intend to hold local governments
17 liable for the release of PFOA and PFOS under CERCLA. However, the enforcement discretion
18 policy does not prevent other responsible parties from suing local governments to recover
19 cleanup costs. The enforcement discretion policy is not legally binding and nothing included in
20 the policy prevents a future administration from revoking it. Counties and other local
21 governments could be forced to pay for the cleanup of PFOA and PFOS chemicals they had no
22 role in producing or releasing into the environment. The lack of liability protections for local
23 governments would place the burden of compliance and cleanup onto ratepayers and not those
24 responsible.

25
26 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** The absence of liability protections could place a significant
27 economic burden on counties. PFAS is suspended in the environment which leads to
28 accumulation in water systems, landfills and other facilities owned or operated by counties.
29 Given the ubiquity of PFAS, county governments, water systems, landfills, and airports could be
30 subject to the rule’s reporting and financial liability requirements.

31
32 **Sponsor(s):** Rob Zapple, Commissioner, New Hanover County, N.C.; Tommy Barnes,
33 Commissioner, Colbert County, Ala.; Erika Pierce, Legislator, Westchester County, N.Y.; Jason
34 Richberg, Legislator, Suffolk County, N.Y.; Rosemarie Smallcombe, Supervisor, Mariposa
35 County, Calif.; Chris Stohr, Board Member, Champaign County, Ill.

36
37 **Proposed Interim Resolution Opposing the Department of Energy National Interest**
38 **Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC)**

39
40 **Issue:** Department of Energy NIETC project will significantly impact environmental, cultural,
41 and socioeconomic values of the counties and their citizens.

42
43 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Department of
44 Energy comply with existing Federal and State laws requiring assessment of potential impacts,
45 consultation, cooperation, and coordination with state and local governments.

1 NACo urges Department of Energy to respect State and County government's siting and
2 decision-making authority.

3
4 NACo urges Federal, State, and County agencies to withhold all approvals, permits, funding or
5 other permissions that may be required for the Department of Energy to acquire or manage fee-
6 title lands, or an interest in lands such as a utility easement, or Right-of-Way within the areas
7 impacted until such time as the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors have been
8 coordinated with the state and county governments to the satisfaction of the state and county
9 governments.

10
11 **Background:** The transition to a fully renewable energy grid was adopted with no public
12 process, and without congressional approval, even though this exponential growth would create
13 an electric grid unable to handle the increased load requirements; ultimately requiring
14 substantially higher costs for consumers, but big gains for “green” energy brokers; and to address
15 the increased load requirements that this, poorly conceived, transition would cause, the
16 government has empowered the Department of Energy to create National Interest Electric
17 Transition Corridors to interconnect the new solar and wind generation facilities that will be
18 needed to accomplish this task; to be built largely in areas with cheap land and low taxes.

19
20 The National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors vary from five to fifteen miles in width,
21 and will require an immense geographic area to be taken from several counties in the proposed
22 corridors, using the federal power of eminent domain. There is no precedent for such widespread
23 use of eminent domain by federal agencies, which federal courts and decades of practice
24 demonstrate to traditionally be the province of state and local governments; there is no
25 justification for a federal agency to assert such powers, especially before state and local
26 governments have been asked to participate in this important process.

27
28 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** The proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Connectors
29 route traverses several counties and will directly impact areas, including, but not limited to
30 environment, community, and economy.

31
32 Environmental:

- 33 • Reduced land availability for grazing or planting, especially during the construction
34 phase, with ongoing maintenance impacts into the operation phase too
- 35 • Increased need for access roads
- 36 • Impacts on endangered species and critical habitat
- 37 • Increased exposure to radiation from EMF (electromagnetic field) frequencies
- 38 • Harm to wildlife and wildlife habitats
- 39 • Disruption to bird and butterfly migration routes
- 40 • Soil disturbance and erosion

41
42 Cultural:

- 43 • Harm to state and/or national landmarks (Santa Fe Trail, Route 66, etc.)
- 44 • Disturbance to archaeological or historical sites

- 1 • Degradation of scenic value and local aesthetics
- 2 • Noise pollution from the buzzing sound
- 3 • Encroaches on local authority (siting, permits, limits county’s ability to set reclamation,
- 4 decommissioning, height limitations, setback requirements, etc.)
- 5 • Changes the community’s character

6

7 Socioeconomic:

- 8 • Decreased land values
- 9 • Reduced marketability of property and fewer interested buyers
- 10 • Clouds property title (future sales are much more challenging when the land is subject to
- 11 potential condemnation)
- 12 • Difficult to plant and conduct other agricultural operations around a transmission line
- 13 • Reduced grazing capacity
- 14 • Negative impact on hunting and ability generate income from selling tags
- 15 • Increased liability risks (fire dangers, stray voltage, etc.)
- 16 • Challenges in securing loans (by affecting mortgage agreements and diminished property
- 17 values)
- 18 • Interference with existing easements
- 19 • Increased susceptibility to future condemnation for additional infrastructure and electric
- 20 projects
- 21 • Economic shifts due to federal policy changes, such as President Trump’s moratorium on
- 22 federal wind leasing in parts of the United States and the review of existing wind
- 23 projects, which may reduce the need for the NIETC

24

25 **Sponsor(s):** Bill Williams, Manager, Chaves County, N.M.; Tina Dixon, Commissioner,
26 Roosevelt County, N.M.; Michael Perry, Commissioner, Chaves County, N.M.; Cliff Waide,
27 Commissioner, Chaves County, N.M.; Annie Hogland, Clerk, Curry County, N.M.; Vicki
28 Marquardt, Commissioner, Otero County, N.M. Seth Martin, Commissioner, Curry County,
29 N.M.; Amanda McKinney, Commissioner, Yakima County, Wash.; Dwayne McFall,
30 Commissioner, Fremont County, Colo.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.;
31 Jennifer O’Hearon, Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Calif.

32

33 **Cross Claimed:** Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee; Agriculture and Rural
34 Affairs Steering Committee; Public Lands Steering Committee

1 **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**
2 **STEERING COMMITTEE**

3
4 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Supporting the Continued Role of Federal Entities in**
5 **Election Assistance for Counties**

6
7 **Issue:** Counties administer elections across the United States and rely on federal support to
8 enhance election security, protect against cybersecurity threats, protect election officials and
9 improve voter accessibility. Federal entities such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security
10 Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) provide low- or no-cost
11 resources, training, and guidance that assist counties in ensuring secure and well-administered
12 elections. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Justice investigates and combats election crimes
13 and houses special task forces that generally ensure our elections are safe, secure and free from
14 interference.

15
16 Recent discussions about potential funding reductions or structural changes to these agencies
17 raise concerns about the continued availability of these vital resources. Counties recognize and
18 appreciate the important work of CISA and EAC in strengthening election systems, and it is
19 critical that these agencies remain strong partners for local election officials.

20
21 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the continued
22 existence and full funding of CISA and the entities they support, the EAC and DOJ election
23 related task forces as they provide counties with low- or no-cost election security and
24 administrative resources and generally ensure the security of our elections. NACo urges
25 Congress and the Administration to:

- 26 • Maintain stable and sufficient funding for CISA and EAC to continue offering counties
27 low- or no-cost election security resources, training, and technical assistance.
28 • Preserve the role of CISA and EAC as nonpartisan agencies that provide practical,
29 voluntary support for counties without imposing regulatory burdens.
30 • Maintain federal entities that investigate and combat election crimes
31 • Encourage ongoing collaboration between these agencies and local election officials to
32 enhance best practices in election administration, cybersecurity, and accessibility.

33
34 **Background:** Counties are responsible for administering free, fair, and secure elections, and
35 federal agencies play an essential role in providing nonpartisan election assistance that helps
36 counties maintain election integrity while adapting to evolving security and operational
37 challenges.

38
39 CISA provides essential cybersecurity tools and assessments and supports entities like the
40 Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) to help counties
41 protect election systems against cyber threats.

42
43 EAC offers best practices, voting system certification, and accessibility guidance that help
44 counties ensure efficient and secure elections.

1 The DOJ investigates election crimes like foreign interference and credible threats towards
2 election officials

3
4 Counties depend on these low- or no-cost resources to strengthen election operations and ensure
5 security without additional financial strain. Maintaining these partnerships ensures continuity,
6 innovation, and security in election administration without adding burdens to local governments.
7 Recent federal proposals have suggested reducing or restructuring these agencies, which could
8 jeopardize the availability of these critical resources. Without stable funding, counties may lose
9 access to election security guidance, cybersecurity tools, and technical assistance that support
10 election officials nationwide.

11
12 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Urban counties benefit from large-scale election security
13 initiatives that help protect voter databases and critical infrastructure. Rural counties rely heavily
14 on federal technical assistance to supplement limited local IT and election administration
15 resources. Ensuring stable funding for federal entities responsible for election security protects
16 all counties, regardless of size, by keeping essential election support available.

17
18 **Sponsor(s):** Katharine Clark, County Clerk, Santa Fe County

19
20 **Proposed Interim Resolution Urging Congressional Action to Exempt Poll Worker Pay**
21 **from Federal Taxes**

22
23 **Issue:** According to the Pew Center on the States, poll workers constitute the “largest one-day
24 workforce in the country.” However, there is a nationwide shortage of poll workers, and every
25 jurisdiction struggles to recruit and retain an adequate workforce for every election. Furthermore,
26 county budgets and staff time are often stretched very thin.

27
28 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls upon Congress to enact
29 legislation exempting compensation paid to election day (including primaries and special
30 elections) precinct election workers, from federal income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare
31 (FICA).

32
33 **Background:** The United States of America is united by our representative democracy. Whether
34 the largest metropolitan area or the smallest hamlet, north or south, east or west, inside the lower
35 48 or out; what binds us together is the Constitution and the electoral process. The key
36 component of elections, the frontline workers, are the poll workers. Their names and duties may
37 differ depending on the state, but their fundamental importance does not change. On Election
38 Day, if they are not present there is no election, the polls do not open, and the voters in that
39 jurisdiction do not vote. They perform these services, laboring long hours, often for very little
40 pay. Many poll workers are older and on a fixed income, living check to check. Income taxes
41 take a chunk of that payment out of their pockets, though this represents an infinitesimally small
42 percentage of overall government revenue. As recognition for their vital service, some states
43 exempt their pay from state income taxes. On a federal level according to the IRS,
44 “Compensation paid to election workers is includible as wage income for income tax purposes,
45 and may be treated as wages for Social Security and Medicare (FICA) tax purposes.”
46 Nationwide, there is a shortage of citizens who sign up to be poll workers. As a result, every

1 jurisdiction struggles to recruit and retain an acceptable compliment to hold elections. In
2 response to the reduced labor supply and the increased demands of the job and general cost of
3 living increases, many jurisdictions have raised pay in order to attract workers. Philadelphia, for
4 example, has had two poll worker pay raises in the last seven years. These increased payments
5 have led workers to exceed income thresholds which require election jurisdictions to withhold
6 funds and complete and send additional paperwork such as 1099s and W2 tax forms. The
7 completion of these forms requires the collection and secure retention of Personally Identifiable
8 Information (PII). This additional work and costs are taxing local governments in both labor-
9 hours and funds at a time when county budgets do not have much room for additional expenses.
10 By exempting compensation paid to election day (including primaries and special elections)
11 precinct election workers, from income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare (FICA) Congress
12 would be saving counties money, county employees time in the preparation of additional
13 paperwork, and show appreciation to the work done by the cogs of democracy – America’s poll
14 workers.

15
16 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** This issue impacts all counties and election jurisdictions both
17 urban and rural. If enacted, this policy will make it easier to recruit and retain a sufficient number
18 of poll workers to effectively administer elections and to decrease county costs and human
19 resources’ workload associated with hiring the “largest one-day workforce in the country.”
20

21 **Sponsor(s):** Lisa Deeley, City Commissioner, City and County of Philadelphia, Pa.; Curtis Koch,
22 County Clerk/Auditor, Davis County, Utah; Christian Leinbach, County Commissioner, Berks
23 County, Pa.; George Hartwick, County Commissioner, Dauphin County, Pa.; Robert Harvie,
24 County Commissioner, Bucks County, Pa.; Joe Kantz, County Commissioner, Snyder County,
25 Pa.; Omar Sabir, City Commissioner, City and County of Philadelphia, Pa.; Christine Reuther,
26 County Councilperson, Delaware County, Pa.; Dante Santoni Jr, County Commissioner, Berks
27 County, Pa.; Michael Rivera, County Commissioner, Berks County, Pa.; Justin Douglas, County
28 Commissioner, Dauphin County, Pa.; Robert Rossman, County Commissioner, Potter County,
29 Pa.; Alan Hall, County Commissioner, Susquehanna County, Pa.; David Darrow, County
30 Commissioner, Susquehanna County, Pa.; Robert McNamara, County Commissioner,
31 Susquehanna County, Pa.; Bonni Dunlap, County Commissioner, Indiana County, Pa.; Harry
32 Haas, County Councilperson, Luzerne County, Pa.; Mike Stiles, County Commissioner, Bedford
33 County, Pa.; Daniel C. Camp III, County Commissioner, Beaver County, Pa.; Jack Manning,
34 County Commissioner, Beaver County, Pa.; Tony Amadio, County Commissioner, Beaver
35 County, Pa.; Brianna Lennon, County Clerk, Boone County, Mo.; Barron Hetherington, County
36 Commissioner, Schuylkill County, Pa.; Sabrina Christian-Bennett, County Commissioner,
37 Portage County, Ohio; Bill Finley Jr, County Commissioner, Mercer County, Pa.; Katharine E.
38 Clark, County Clerk, Santa Fe County, N.M.; Kevin Alexander, County Clerk, Edmonson
39 County, Ky.; Jeff Benton, County Commissioner, Delaware County, Ohio

1 **HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution Clarifying Treatment of Distinct Facilities Located on the**
4 **Same Campus under Federal IMD Law**
5

6 **Issue:** States may request a Section 1115 IMD waiver to receive federal Medicaid funds for
7 services provided to individuals who are patients in IMDs. However, rural counties like San
8 Joaquin County in California are unable to Opt-in to the new IMD waiver due to the average
9 length of stay guidelines of less than thirty days within a six-month time period. The average
10 length of stay in an IMD for San Joaquin County Medi-cal beneficiaries is over a year. While
11 San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services does have an in county PFH, it does not have
12 enough locked beds to meet our need.
13

14 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the creation of a carveout
15 for rural counties to leverage the 1115 IMD waiver and increase the bed cap from 16 to 32. This
16 will allow for greater clinical care capacity, effective placement and movement throughout the
17 continuum and gives all counties the ability to draw down federal Medicaid funds.
18

19 **Background:** Benefits of this proposal: If SJCBS were to increase their number of beds from
20 16 to 32, the Medi-Cal Revenue to SJCBS would double to \$9 million dollars in one fiscal year
21 and potentially to \$12 million in FY 25/26 if we had a 32 bed PHF for reinvestment in
22 community-based care. Opportunities would increase for foster youth to remain in their county
23 for greater family reunification and a reduction in out of county ambulance transports.
24

25 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** IMD (Locked Facilities but not PHF) - SJCBS works with 9
26 IMD's, only one of which is in County. SJC has one IMD, Crestwood Stockton. This facility has
27 190 beds. In December of 2024, SJCBS took up 17 of those beds.
28

29 In FY 23/24, SJCBS paid our IMD providers \$6.8 million dollars. The only source of income
30 to help mitigate the cost of these programs comes from the conserved clients placed in the
31 IMD's. In FY 23/24 we recovered \$464,794 dollars from conserved clients. Leaving us with
32 \$6,335,206 million to cover using realignment funds.
33

34 SJCBS PHF Data: In FY23/24 the SJCBS 16 bed PHF brought in \$4.5 million dollars in
35 Medi-Cal Revenue. If SJCBS were to increase their number of beds from 16 to 32, the Medi-
36 Cal Revenue to SJCBS would double to \$9 million dollars in one fiscal year. However, with a
37 recent rate change we could expect closer to \$12 million in FY 25/26 if we had a 32 bed PHF.
38 Out of County PHF Data: While SJCBS does have an in county PFH, it does not have enough
39 beds to meet our need. SJCBS contracts with 14 out of county PHF facilities to meet the needs
40 of our consumers. These costs are covered by realignment dollars. SJCBS pulls in no revenue
41 from these contracts. In FY23/24, SJCBS paid \$11,338,315 to the facilities, \$214,782 for the
42 accompanying medication support, and \$477,976 for ambulance transportation for a grand total
43 of \$12,058.073. If SJCBS were allowed to take 32 clients on their PHF, this would decrease
44 these costs while pulling in Medi-Cal Revenue.

1 IMD impact on Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP): When STRTP’s
2 transitioned to being under the limitations of IMD’s, the STRTP’s were forced to adjust their
3 capacity to ensure they were not deemed an IMD. This had a negative impact on the number of
4 STRTP beds available in San Joaquin County and throughout the state.

5
6 Children’s Home of Stockton decreased their beds from 34 to 16 in late 2022, resulting in a loss
7 of 18 opportunities for SJC foster youth to remain in their home county. On average, SJC has 56-
8 77 foster youth in out of county STRTP’s.

9
10 Since January 1st of 2023 STRTP facilities and beds have decreased. While we can’t say that
11 100% of these decreases are a direct result of the IMD mandate, it is safe to say that the IMD
12 mandate was a large part of the decrease in beds.

13
14 1/1/2023 - 12/17/2024 Difference

15 Number of STRTP Facilities | 392 | 359 | 33 Facilities closed

16 Number of STRTP Beds | 3002 | 2599 | 403 beds lost

17 Source: CBHDA External STRTP Tracker

18
19 **Sponsor(s):** Steve Ding, Supervisor, San Joaquin County, Calif.

20
21 **Proposed Interim Resolution Declaring Food Security in Rural Areas a Public Health**
22 **Priority**

23
24 **Issue:** Declaring food security in rural areas a public health priority beyond the ability of
25 counties to address and requesting federal funding to boost emergency food supplies and develop
26 structural solutions to critical food supply and distribution needs.

27
28 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the strengthening,
29 through federal funding, of local food programs in rural areas to ensure consistent and equitable
30 access to healthy, safe and affordable foods that promote optimal health and well-being.
31 Specifically, federal support is sought to 1) provide more food to hungry families and 2) allow
32 rural communities to engage in food systems planning to identify food production and food
33 security challenges and opportunities and develop policy tools to strengthen food systems
34 permanently and better connect underserved residents with those food systems.

35
36 **Background:** American communities have experienced a drastic increase in food insecure
37 households, with children and seniors being particularly vulnerable and communities of color
38 disproportionately impacted. Rural parts of the country have fewer job opportunities and, partly as
39 a result, higher levels of poverty and food insecurity. Rural families struggling with food
40 insecurity must travel long distances to reach food banks and lower-priced grocery stores. Many
41 live in “food deserts” with very limited access to food and especially to healthy food. The
42 Centers for Disease Control has reported that rural Americans have worse health outcomes than
43 urban Americans, while the health impacts of food insecurity, exacerbated in rural areas, are
44 widespread.

1 There is an urgent need for the federal government to invest in programs that make healthy food
2 more affordable for more people, and the need is compounded in rural areas. Congress has failed
3 to reauthorize the expired 2018 federal Farm Bill, which provides funding for the Supplemental
4 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other food assistance programs, while SNAP has had
5 a 50% reduction in funding over the past two years. Federally-funded programs such as the
6 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the National
7 School Lunch Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Local Food Purchase
8 Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, and the Older Americans Act’s Meals on Wheels
9 program all need robust funding to feed America’s rising number of food insecure households.
10 NACo calls for food security in rural areas to be declared a public health priority and urges
11 Congress to pass the Farm Bill with an increase SNAP funding and to increase support for
12 additional federal programs to address hunger in communities across the nation. Moreover,
13 NACo urges federal support for local and regional food systems planning in rural areas to
14 develop more permanent, structural solutions to critical food supply and distribution needs.

15
16 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** This policy would provide new federal funds to counties and
17 community-based organizations to support food assistance and food systems planning in rural
18 areas.

19
20 **Sponsor(s):** Barry Buchanan, Councilmember, Whatcom County, Wash.

21
22 **Cross Claimed:** Health Steering Committee; Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee

23
24 **Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Uterine Fibroid**
25 **Education, Research and Treatment**

26
27 **Issue:** Uterine fibroids are a less understood, but severe maternal morbidity factor. According to
28 the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, more than 70% of
29 U.S. women will experience uterine fibroids by 50 years old and they are the most common
30 reason, aside from cancer, that women have their uterus removed through hysterectomy, but for
31 Black women that rate is over 80%. Overall, uterine fibroids become more common, from age 30
32 to menopause, but Black women develop fibroids at a younger age, have more severe symptoms
33 and develop higher rates of complications. It is estimated that 26,000,000 women between the
34 ages of 15 and 50 have uterine fibroids. The provision of education, detection and treatment for
35 uterine fibroids places a substantial burden on county public health systems.

36
37 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Government
38 and Congress to assist counties by providing funding for 1) Increased public awareness and
39 education campaigns for the early detection and intervention of uterine fibroids; 2) Support
40 increased research on uterine fibroid causes, early detection and interventions; 3) Increase
41 available treatment options for uterine fibroids, to include fertility friendly, long-term and less
42 invasive interventions; 4) Ensure equal access to insurance coverage for uterine fibroid
43 treatments; to ameliorate maternal health outcomes for all women and address racial disparities
44 in maternal health, mortality, and morbidity.

1 **Background:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the 12-month
2 ending provisional maternal mortality rates by race ending June 2024 are as follows: Hispanic or
3 Latina 13.8 per 100,000 live births, White non-Hispanic 15.3, Asian non-Hispanic 14.6 and
4 Black non-Hispanic 51.2 One of the less researched causes of maternal morbidity and mortality
5 is uterine fibroids, also called leiomyomas or myomas. 70% of women will develop uterine
6 fibroids by the age of 50; however, Black women are diagnosed 3 times more than white women
7 and at a younger age resulting in negative maternal health outcomes for Black women who
8 experience them, including late detections of diagnoses, increased rates of surgery-related
9 mortality, and increased rates of hysterectomies. 25-50% of women with uterine fibroids are
10 symptomatic and more likely to experience heavy and prolonged bleeding, bleeding between
11 menstrual cycles, chronic pelvic pain among other symptoms. It is estimated that 20 percent to
12 50 percent of women of reproductive age currently have uterine fibroids. Symptomatic uterine
13 fibroids can cause reproductive problems, including infertility and people with uterine fibroids
14 are much more likely to miscarry during early pregnancy than people without them. NACo urges
15 the federal government and congress to increase funding and work with states and local
16 governments to fund and assist in more robust research on uterine fibroids, improved treatment
17 options, and education campaigns.

18
19 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Annually, uterine fibroids are estimated to cost between \$5.9-
20 \$34.4 billion annually in both direct costs (medications, medical visits and surgeries) and indirect
21 costs (lost wages, preterm deliveries and associated costs).

22
23 **Sponsor(s):** Donna Miller, Commissioner, Cook County, Ill.

24 25 **Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Preventative Health**

26
27 **Issue:** Preventative care saves lives and reduces long-term public health costs at both the local
28 and at the federal levels, particularly in cases of cancer.

29
30 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal support and
31 collaboration to provide preventative care services at no cost to uninsured patients by:

- 32 • Expanding and reauthorizing the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection
33 Program (NBCCEDP);
- 34 • Creating a similar federally funded program for prostate cancer screenings under the
35 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- 36 • Directing federal funding for evidence-based screenings to county governments and
37 county health facilities to support initiatives like the Birthday Screening Program across
38 the U.S.
- 39 • Promoting research and innovation in preventive care to enhance early detection efforts
40 and outcomes.

41
42 **Background:** Lack of access to medicine and health care screenings can negatively impact
43 health outcomes of residents, regardless of socio-economic status, race, age, gender, sexual
44 orientation, citizenship status, and other categorizations. A County and/or federal public health
45 system, including its hospitals, clinics, and myriads of public services, continues to provide

1 medical care to residents, regardless of a resident’s socio-economic status, race, age, gender,
2 sexual orientation, citizenship status, and other categorizations. Additionally, large urban
3 counties, Like Cook County, Illinois, spend roughly 30% to 40% of its fiscal year budget on
4 providing healthcare to its residents. For example, Los Angeles County specifically allocated
5 \$16.14B of its total \$49.17B and Cook County specifically allotted approximately \$5.1B of its
6 total \$10B FY 2024 budget to public health and health care.

7
8 Moreover, second to skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in women
9 and prostate cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in men. Expanding access to
10 healthcare through free prostate and/or mammogram health screenings will:

- 11 • promote preventative care throughout the country;
- 12 • promote wellness and good health;
- 13 • promote early detection of any underlying health concerns;
- 14 • promote decreased cost of long-term care for treating advanced medical issues and
15 illnesses; and
- 16 • promote increasing the life expectancy of residents, especially in communities with lower
17 life expectancy rates

18
19 The U.S. Preventive Services Taskforce (USPSTF) makes evidence-based recommendations, and
20 there are other national guidelines and evidenced-based testing supported by peer reviewed
21 medical literature about preventive services such as mammogram and prostate screenings
22 throughout the country. Additionally, several states (i.e. Illinois, Arkansas, California, Indiana,
23 Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, etc.) and the federal government (H H.R.3916 - SCREENS for
24 Cancer Act of 2024) enacted and/or introduced legislation to support the treatment of metastatic
25 cancer, prostate cancer, and screening for breast and cervical cancers based upon such evidenced-
26 based recommendations.

27
28 Residents with health insurance, including employer-sponsored, Medicare and Medicaid, are
29 eligible for these and many other annual screenings without cost to them as “preventive
30 services,” which federal law requires to be covered at no cost-sharing to patient-enrollees
31 through their respective health plan coverage. However, insured patients may seek prostate
32 health screenings and/or mammogram preventative care screenings from facilities in accordance
33 with their health plan coverage.

34
35 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Many counties currently budget funds to provide healthcare
36 services for its residents. By leveraging existing and expanded federal resources for preventative
37 care, counties will offset increases to their fiscal budget, while decreasing long term costs of
38 treating advanced chronic diseases and illness.

39
40 **Sponsor(s):** Bill Lowry, Commissioner, Cook County, Ill.

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Reduce the Frequency of Reevaluations for Home and**
2 **Community-Based Services (HCBS)**
3

4 **Issue:** 42 CFR §441.302(c)(2) requires an initial evaluation and reevaluation to occur, at least
5 annually, of each older adult and individual with a disability who accesses home or community-
6 based services. (See also 42 CFR §441.303(c)(4) and 1915(c).) Increasing demand for home and
7 community-based services and the annual reevaluation requirement has created intensive labor
8 challenges, extensive waiting lists, and delays to accessing needed service.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amendments to the
11 federal requirements to reduce the frequency of reevaluations to occur only every three years,
12 upon request, or when there is a significant change in the person’s condition. Further research is
13 required to determine the full scope of regulatory amendments needed to support the policy
14 solution (Code of Federal Regulations, Medicaid Program Guidelines, Access Final Rule, etc.).
15

16 **Background:** The role of evaluations for home or community-based services is crucial in
17 ensuring that older adults and individuals with a disability who live with long-term and chronic-
18 care needs receive the appropriate support and services. These evaluations assist beneficiaries in
19 making informed decisions about their care options, whether they choose to remain in their
20 homes, move to group homes, or reside in elderly living facilities. The evaluation process is
21 comprehensive and holds significant value, particularly during the initial phase of service
22 initiation. However, many beneficiaries experience stable conditions with minimal or no
23 functional changes annually. For these individuals, the requirement of an annual reevaluation is
24 not necessary to accurately reflect their current level of care and needs.
25

26 Recently, counties have faced increased demand from older adults and individuals with
27 disabilities for these required evaluations to access home or community-based services. This
28 surge in demand has led to longer waiting periods for initial evaluations, resulting in delayed
29 access to essential home or community-based services and counties falling behind statutory
30 requirements. Counties are challenged with balancing the need for initial access to home or
31 community-based services and increasing the workforce year over year to meet the requirements
32 for ongoing annual evaluations of current beneficiaries.
33

34 According to a 2024 survey in Scott County, MN, 90% of families and individuals already
35 receiving home or community-based services would prefer to reduce the frequency of
36 reevaluation to every three years, upon request, or when there is a significant change in
37 condition. A reduced frequency of reevaluation would be easier on families and individuals
38 whose condition does not change, reduce the workforce needed for conducting evaluations by
39 almost 50%, allow counties to be more responsive in other areas such as initial evaluations, and
40 allow recipients to initially access home or community-based services without delay. Without
41 this change, counties will be required to continue increasing the workforce to meet the federal
42 requirements.
43

44 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** With reduced reevaluation requirements to every three years, upon
45 request, or when there is a significant change in condition, counties can allocate resources more
46 effectively, reducing the workforce for conducting evaluations by almost 50%, focusing on

- 1 critical areas that require immediate attention such as initial evaluations, which will result in
- 2 beneficiaries accessing essential home or community-based services without delay.
- 3
- 4 **Sponsor(s):** Barb Weckman Brekke, Commissioner, Scott County, Minn.

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Eligibility of Veterans with Non-punitive Other Than**
4 **Honorable Discharges for Health Benefits**

5
6 **Issue:** Other than honorable (OTH) discharges stemming from nonpunitive administrative
7 discharges makes those veterans ineligible for care and treatment from the Veterans Health
8 Administration (VHA), and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests congressional action
11 to mandate the Department of Defense (DoD) complete a review of nonpunitive military
12 discharges issued during the Post-9/11 Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror era for
13 other than honorable discharges that can be linked to undiagnosed or untreated traumatic brain
14 injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma (MST), or other
15 traumas for automatic upgrades and streamlined opportunity for discharge upgrades.
16

17 **Background:** Veterans of the Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflicts with undiagnosed TBI,
18 PTSD, MST, or other traumas is nearly double the rate of Vietnam era veterans and nearly four
19 times the rate of WWII era veterans. These veterans have higher rates of other than honorable
20 discharges which consequently makes them ineligible for care and treatment from VHA and
21 other VA benefits. The acuity of the illnesses and ailments from the traumas can require medical
22 care and services for issues stemming from their military service.
23

24 NACo urges DoD to increase outreach to impacted veterans and access to Military Department
25 Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) to increase the requests and
26 evidence supporting discharge upgrades for those with bad papers due to trauma associated with
27 military service. This should include working with local VAs, Counties and County Veteran
28 Service Officers, and other veteran serving organization to increase awareness and access for
29 discharge upgrades.
30

31 NACo urges Congress to take legislative action address the issue of those veterans ineligible for
32 benefits despite their bad papers likely being linked to trauma stemming from military service.
33 Under previous DoD action and precedent with correction of DADT discharges rectification of
34 the OTH has been utilized to rectify previous DoD actions and policy.
35

36 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Would provide increased opportunity for counties to connect
37 veterans to veteran benefits and reduce their need for county and state benefits.
38

39 **Sponsor(s):** James Zenner, Director, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Los Angeles
40 County, Calif.
41

42 **Cross Claimed:** Human Services and Education Steering Committee; Health Steering
43 Committee

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Ensuring a Clear and Fair Vetting Process for Migrants**

2
3 **Issue:** A recent series of executive orders by the current administration allows federal agencies to
4 discourage and prohibit immigration from certain countries to the United States. This opens up
5 for an unfair vetting process of migrants due to their race, nationality, ethnicity, or religion.
6

7 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal agencies that
8 handle immigration to create a fair vetting process that is individual based. NACo calls on
9 Congress to enact legislation that sets guidelines to develop a transparent and fair vetting process
10 for migrants on an individual basis and prohibits the federal government from discriminating
11 against migrants for their race, nationality, ethnicity, or religion.
12

13 **Background:** In 2017, a similar executive order from the federal government was implemented
14 in what became known as a travel ban. That travel ban had great repercussions across the nation.
15 Travel bans can create a perception of discrimination and fear against various religions and
16 nationalities, affecting communities here in the United States and abroad. Travel bans will hurt
17 communities and local economies that have a large immigrant population due to reduced tourism
18 revenue, disruption to international business, labor market disruption, decline in international
19 student enrollment, disruption of family reunification, and legal challenges, creating uncertainty
20 and administrative burdens for local governments.
21

22 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Ensures a sense of safety and belonging among communities in
23 addition to protecting counties dependent on international tourism, trade, and employment for
24 their local economy.
25

26 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County, N.C.;
27 Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Sarah Benatar, County
28 Treasurer, Coconino County, Ariz.; Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County,
29 Ariz.
30

31 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Ensuring the Continuation of Asylum**

32
33 **Issue:** The current administration has directed federal agencies to close ports of entry to those
34 without legal status via proclamation. Essentially prohibiting most legal claims of asylum to be
35 accepted and risking an increase in the number of unauthorized entries into the United States.
36

37 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government
38 to accept claims of asylum from individuals who do it the legal and right way at ports of entry.
39

40 **Background:** The United States, since its creation, has always been a nation accepting of
41 migrants coming to this nation for a better life, freedom, and hope. Since 1980, with the passage
42 of the Refugee Act, the United States has allowed for those who fear their safety to seek refuge
43 here in the United States as long as they can show a credible fear of persecution in their home
44 country to claim asylum. Since 1980, more than three million refugees have been accepted into
45 the country under claims of asylum.

1 Denying all asylum claims being done the right and legal at port of entries will only lead to the
2 increase in the number of unauthorized entries here into the United States. Leading to a strain on
3 local resources and increased costs on social services. Local economies' workforce will be
4 reduced along with consumer spending from asylum seekers.

5
6 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Such legislation will ensure that local governments and resources
7 are not further strained by an increase in the number of unauthorized peoples in
8 their jurisdiction. Uphold long standing tradition and promise that America is a place for those
9 seeking freedom and a better life.

10
11 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County, N.C.;
12 Manuel "Manny" Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Wendy R. Askew, County
13 Supervisor, Monterey County, Calif.; Sarah Benatar, County Treasurer, Coconino County, Ariz.;
14 Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.; David Stout, County
15 Commissioner, El Paso County, Tex.

16
17 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Federal Agencies Respecting and Granting Protection to**
18 **"Sensitive Locations"**

19
20 **Issue:** It has been a long-standing practice by both federal and local law enforcement to
21 recognize various "sensitive places" as protected areas against local and federal enforcement.
22 These protected "sensitive places" include schools, medical facilities, places of worship, and
23 public demonstrations. Recently, federal agencies have expressed and implemented actions that
24 these "sensitive places" and their surrounding areas will no longer be protected from federal law
25 enforcement that has yet to obtain a warrant.

26
27 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal agencies to
28 reinstate 2021 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) guidance that clearly defines various
29 "sensitive places," including schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and public
30 demonstrations, and their surrounding areas as protected areas from federal law enforcement
31 without a warrant. NACo urges Congress to pass legislation establishing these "sensitive places"
32 and there surrounding areas as protected from federal law enforcement without a warrant.

33
34 **Background:** Since 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has maintained a
35 standing guidance requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to refrain from
36 immigration enforcement actions in certain areas, also known as "sensitive locations." In 2021, a
37 memo expanded the definitions of these areas to specifically list schools, healthcare facilities,
38 places of worship, social services establishments, disaster/emergency response sites, weddings,
39 funerals, religious ceremonies, parades, demonstrations, and rallies. This memo also included the
40 surrounding areas of these places as protected as well.

41
42 Immigration enforcement in "sensitive places" can deter individuals from accessing essential
43 services due to fear of deportation or being mistakenly arrested. Various individuals and
44 communities would be less likely to seek healthcare, report crimes, open businesses, work,
45 attend school, attend community events, trust the government, and spend money. This will lead
46 to negative impacts on community health, public safety, local economy, education, and trust in

1 government, and endanger the overall well-being of local communities, especially those with a
2 significant immigrant population.

3
4 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** This would allow people to not live in fear or anger of their own
5 community, government, or law enforcement. Ensuring that local governments, law enforcement,
6 communities, the economy, and businesses can continue to function in a safe, stable, and
7 peaceful manner.

8
9 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County, N.C.;
10 Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Wendy R. Askew, County
11 Supervisor, Monterey County, Calif.; Sarah Benatar, County Treasurer, Coconino County, Ariz.;
12 Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.; David Stout, County
13 Commissioner, El Paso County, Tex.; Adrian Garcia, County Commissioner, Harris County, Tex.

14 15 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Protecting Safety Net Programs from Harmful Cuts**

16
17 **Issue:** As lawmakers prepare a budget reconciliation package aimed at advancing tax, energy
18 and other domestic policy priorities, they are considering spending cuts to a wide range of social
19 safety net programs that, if enacted, would harm county residents and county finances.

20
21 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges lawmakers to protect
22 human services programs—including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the
23 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Social Services Block Grant
24 (SSBG)—from being used to offset the costs of a reconciliation package.

25
26 **Background:** County governments provide critical services that help vulnerable individuals and
27 families thrive, functioning as an integral part of the federal, state and local partnership in human
28 service delivery. Annually, counties invest \$62.8 billion in federal, state and local resources and
29 employ 259,000 human services workers to provide safety net services for millions of residents.
30 Lawmakers are reportedly considering changes to programs such as SNAP, TANF and SSBG
31 that would reduce the federal contribution to these programs by hundreds of billions of dollars
32 over 10 years. Such deep, across-the-board cuts to the social safety net would damage the ability
33 of county human services agencies to continue serving vulnerable households, while placing
34 undue strain on state and local resources.

35
36 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Reduced federal investment in programs that help individuals
37 access food, housing, employment services, childcare and more would put additional burden on
38 state and local governments to bridge the gap. Additionally, county residents’ loss of financial
39 and other resources due to cuts to the safety net would have a cascading negative impact on
40 county economic conditions.

41
42 **Sponsor(s):** Daniel Makelky, Director of Human Services, Arapahoe County, Colo. on behalf of
43 the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA)

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Protecting Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the United**
2 **States Constitution and Ensuring the Right to Birthright Citizenship**
3

4 **Issue:** The executive branch and members of Congress have introduced executive orders and
5 bills to limit, redefine, deny, and end the right to birthright citizenship here in the United States, a
6 right that has been enshrined in the first section of the 14th Amendment of the United States
7 Constitution since 1868.
8

9 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on federal agencies to
10 continue providing documents pertaining to granting citizenship to all those born here in the
11 United States as they have done so since 1924 until the United States Supreme Court directs
12 otherwise. To prevent further contention and confusion regarding who was the right to birthright
13 citizenship in the future, NACo urges Congress to enact legislation that clearly states all who are
14 born on United States soil, regardless of parents' legal status, are entitled to U.S. citizenship and
15 that Congress nor the executive branch cannot limit, redefine, deny, or end birthright citizenship
16 irrespective of one's nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion or their parent's nationality, ethnicity,
17 race, or religion.
18

19 **Background:** Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that "all
20 persons born on naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are
21 citizens of the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are a citizen of the United
22 States and of the State wherein they reside." The primary interpretation from legal scholars and
23 courts has defined that section 1 of the 14th Amendment grants citizenship to anyone born on
24 United States soil regardless of their parent's legal status and are entitled to the rights that are
25 granted to every citizen. Birthright citizenship has been the law of the land for 150 years and was
26 affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1868 in the case of U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark, where the Supreme
27 Court ruled that someone born in the United States to parents of nonlegal status is indeed an
28 American citizen.
29

30 Repealing birthright citizenship would increase the unauthorized population by 4.7 million in the
31 United States by 2050. This increase in an unauthorized population would put increased stress on
32 county services and resources nationwide. Without birthright citizenship, counties will take on
33 new costs, for they will have the burden of documenting and inquiring the status of the parent of
34 every newborn child in their jurisdiction. Not only would counties need more funds to determine
35 the citizenship of everyone who seeks out their resources, but it would also increase the length of
36 time for legal citizens to receive assistance from the county due to the length in determining
37 citizenship.
38

39 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Would make sure counties do not have the burden of documenting
40 people's legal status and the costs that come along with that, would prevent the increase in the
41 number of unauthorized people here in the United States, allow counties to distribute resources
42 appropriately to the local communities they represent, and ensure that the promise of citizenship
43 and the rights associated with citizenship are upheld. This would put clarity and safety at ease for
44 local governments and everyone in the United States.

1 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County, N.C.;
2 Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Wendy R. Askew, County
3 Supervisor, Monterey County, Calif.; Sarah Benatar, County Treasurer, Coconino County, Ariz.;
4 Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.; David Stout, County
5 Commissioner, El Paso, Tex.

6
7 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Reinstating the CHNV (Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and**
8 **Venezuelan) Parole Program**
9

10 **Issue:** The current administration has repealed a parole program for Cuban, Haitian,
11 Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan migrants, also known as the CHNV Parole Program. In doing so,
12 they are jeopardizing the work authorization status for thousands of people here in the United
13 States under the CHNV parole program.
14

15 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to
16 reinstate the CHNV parole program, keep the parole program in place till the conditions within
17 these nations that brought forward this parole program change, and not revoke the status and
18 work authorization of those granted parole already under the CHNV parole program.
19

20 **Background:** The CHNV parole programs have allowed certain people from the four nations of
21 Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who have a sponsor in the United States and who pass a
22 background check to come to the United States for two years to live and work lawfully while
23 they wait for asylum claim to heard in court. This parole program has been enacted since January
24 of 2023 via the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the Immigration and Nationality
25 Act (INA). This bill grants the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the discretion to
26 temporarily allow certain non-United States citizens to enter or remain in the United States if
27 they apply for admission but lack any legal basis for admission. As of December 2024, 530,000
28 people had entered the country under the CHNV parole program-35,000 Cubans, 50,000
29 Haitians, 21,500 Nicaraguans, and 48,500 Venezuelans. During the two-year parole period,
30 individuals may seek humanitarian relief or other immigration benefits if they are eligible and
31 work during that time. The parole program does not grant permanent status to immigrants. Parole
32 programs have been used by both Democratic and Republican administrations for over 70 years,
33 including programs for Vietnamese and Cuban nationals.
34

35 The Executive Order put forward by the current administration immediately ended the parole
36 program, which means no new applications will be accepted from individuals seeking to sponsor
37 those migrants. Several immigrants have been granted worker authorization status and are now in
38 danger of having that status revoked. Once the parole period ends for these migrants, they could
39 be at risk of deportation if their asylum status has yet to be determined. Therefore, taking away
40 their temporary status and raising the number of unauthorized people here in the United States
41 and in need of local resources.
42

43 Parole programs give families a safe pathway to be reunited and communities the space to live
44 out their faith. Without the CHNV parole program, families will be separated, illegal crossings
45 into the United States will increase, the number of unauthorized peoples will increase, counties

1 will lose a growing workforce, and there will be a greater population of individuals needing
2 county financial assistance.

3
4 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Reinstating the CHNV parole program will decrease unauthorized
5 entry into the United States, decrease the number of unauthorized people here in the United
6 States, unite communities and families, prevent county resources and services from undergoing
7 more financial stress, and not disrupt the local workforce and local economy.

8
9 **Sponsor(s):** Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, County Commissioner, Mecklenburg County, N.C.;
10 Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV, District Legislator, Jackson County, Mo.; Wendy R. Askew,
11 County Supervisor, Monterey County, Calif.; Sarah Benatar, County Treasurer, Coconino
12 County, Ariz.; Jeronimo Vasquez, County Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.; David Stout,
13 County Commissioner, El Paso, Tex.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposed Interim Resolution to Advocate for the Restructuring and Strengthening of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Issue: Recent discussions have raised concerns about the effectiveness of FEMA, with suggestions ranging from significant restructuring to the potential dissolution of the agency. Given FEMA's critical role in disaster management, it is imperative to pursue thoughtful reforms that enhance its capabilities rather than consider its elimination.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to undertake a comprehensive review of FEMA with the goal of implementing reasonable and effective restructuring measures. This review should focus on strengthening FEMA's support for prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts. NACo emphasizes the necessity for representation on the President's newly established the Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council or ongoing engagement with NACo to ensure that the perspectives and expertise of local county emergency managers are incorporated into any proposed reforms.

Background: FEMA has been instrumental in coordinating federal disaster response and recovery efforts. However, recent critiques have highlighted areas where the agency's performance could be improved. In January 2025, President Donald Trump issued an executive order establishing a review council to evaluate FEMA's operations and effectiveness. This council is tasked with assessing the agency and recommending potential reforms.

While acknowledging the need for improvements, it is crucial to recognize the extensive experience and infrastructure that FEMA has developed over the years. Dismantling the agency would disregard decades of progress and could leave a void in national disaster management capabilities. Instead, targeted reforms can address current shortcomings while preserving and enhancing FEMA's essential functions.

The rationale for this proposed resolutions is as follows:

1. **Comprehensive Disaster Management:** FEMA's mandate encompasses all phases of disaster management, including prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. A restructured FEMA should continue to support and strengthen each of these areas to ensure a holistic approach to disaster resilience.
2. **Local Expertise:** County emergency managers are on the front lines of disasters, possessing invaluable insights into the challenges and needs of their communities. Their direct experience with FEMA's processes and interactions with disaster survivors makes their input crucial for effective reform.
3. **NACo Representation:** As the representative body for county governments nationwide, NACo is well-positioned to convey the collective experiences and recommendations of local emergency managers. Inclusion of NACo on the FEMA Review Council will ensure that any restructuring efforts are informed by ground-level realities and best practices.

1 In conclusion, NACo calls upon Congress to pursue thoughtful and measured reforms of FEMA
2 that enhance its effectiveness across all aspects of disaster management. By involving NACo and
3 local emergency management professionals in the review process, the restructured FEMA will be
4 better equipped to serve and protect communities nationwide. This policy is needed due to the
5 recent Executive Order issued by the White House, however NACo has long standing policy on
6 asking the federal government to engage NACo in all disaster reform matters including FEMA,
7 the suite of emergency management and homeland security grants and any changes to law or
8 policy that impact county government.

9
10 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Impacts all counties.

11
12 **Sponsor(s):** Judson Freed, Director, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Ramsey
13 County, Minn. Nick Crossley, Director, Emergency Management and Homeland Security,
14 Hamilton County, Ohio

15
16 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Support the Adoption of a Damages Cap on Federal Civil**
17 **Rights Claims**

18
19 **Issue:** Nuclear civil rights jury verdicts are impacting Counties across the nation due to
20 uncapped 42 USC § 1983 claims. Skyrocketing claim values threaten the solvency of county
21 self-insurance pools and expose local governments to debilitating debt.

22
23 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to revise 42
24 U.S.C. § 1983 to cap non-economic and punitive damages in civil rights cases to address the
25 financial risks posed by “nuclear verdicts” and massive settlements that strain public budgets.

26
27 **Background:** In recent years juries have awarded extraordinarily high damages in lawsuits
28 against governmental entities. For example, in 2024, a federal jury in New Mexico awarded
29 \$44,000,000 in a case involving over the clothes touching of a female student. *T.R. v Howard*.
30 *In Brown v City of Chicago* a jury awarded \$50,000,000 for ten years of wrongful detention. In
31 *Cox v. New Haven*, a jury awarded \$45,000,000 for excessive force. The absence of a damages
32 cap creates immense uncertainty, often pressuring local governments to settle defensible cases to
33 avoid the risk of a catastrophic loss.

34
35 Over five hundred self-insured pools exist in the United States. Most counties are either self-
36 insured or get their coverage from self-insured pools that limit coverage to less than \$5 million.
37 Commercial markets have fled the law enforcement market. Counties with commercial carriers
38 have seen their premiums skyrocket, coverage limits reduced and deductibles dramatically
39 increased. The increasing value of these claims threatens the financial stability of county self-
40 insurance pools and exposes local governments to severe financial strain.

41
42 Large uninsured or underinsured payouts force counties to make difficult decisions, including
43 cutting essential public services or raising taxes. A reasonable legislative cap on damages would
44 ensure fairness and predictability, protect public resources, and allow governments to litigate
45 cases based on their merits rather than out of fear of a catastrophic loss. Importantly, such a cap

1 would still allow for meaningful compensation to victims while protecting taxpayers and
2 essential public services.

3

4 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** The absence of a federal civil rights liability cap has financial
5 repercussions for all counties, disproportionately impacting those with limited resources. The
6 increasing litigation costs and risk of nuclear verdicts do not discriminate based on size or
7 location. Examples include: \$95Million verdict against Erie County, NY for deputy excessive
8 force, increase in Ninnekah property taxes to pay \$6Million of \$7.5Million settlement of sexual
9 abuse claims, Chicago taxpayers paid out more than \$81 million in 2023 to resolve litigation
10 against their police department (and \$378 million in the last 5 years), Wagoner County,
11 Oklahoma residents see tax increase to pay \$13.5 million to resolve suit resulting from death of
12 an inmate after failure to follow protocols.

13

14 **Sponsor(s):** Grace Philips, Risk Management Director, New Mexico Association of Counties

1 **PUBLIC LANDS STEERING COMMITTEE**

2
3 **Proposed Interim Resolution Encouraging Federal Land Management Agencies to Utilize**
4 **Existing Studies and Promote Efficient Siting of Infrastructure Projects**
5

6 **Issue:** Inefficiencies in current Federal permitting often leads to increased costs, prolonged
7 permitting timelines, reduced likelihood of co-location of infrastructure, and can result in
8 unnecessary and higher-density disturbance on private lands. Federal land management agencies
9 often disregard existing cultural, archaeological, or environmental studies, or data collected by
10 other agencies or organizations.

11
12 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal land management
13 agencies to prioritize and incorporate existing studies, including cultural and archaeological
14 analyses from other federal agencies, as well as environmental data collected by other agencies
15 and organizations, when assessing proposals for infrastructure projects. NACo also supports
16 policies that promote co-location and efficient siting of projects on public lands to minimize
17 surface disturbances and reduce the need for additional impacts on private property.

18
19 **Background:** Counties across the United States regularly interact with federal land management
20 agencies during the permitting process for infrastructure projects. Inefficient use of existing
21 studies by these agencies often delays the process, increasing project costs, and creating
22 unnecessary impacts on private lands.

23
24 For example, when permitting a powerline through an isolated section of public land, federal
25 agencies may deny the use of one mile of public land due to a lack of consideration for existing
26 studies. As a result, to keep the project timeline, the project must instead traverse three miles of
27 private land, causing increased costs and unnecessary disturbances. Efficient use of existing
28 studies and coordination among agencies can streamline this process, support responsible
29 development, and protect both public and private lands.

30
31 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Encouraging federal land management agencies to incorporate
32 existing studies would lead to more efficient project permitting, reduce costs associated with
33 duplicative studies, and prevent unnecessary impacts on private lands. Rural counties, in
34 particular, would benefit from reduced surface disturbances and enhanced coordination for
35 critical infrastructure projects.

36
37 **Sponsor(s):** John Espy, Commissioner, Carbon County, Wyo.; Jeness Saxton, Administrator,
38 Sublette County, Wyo.; Bill Williams, County Manager, Chaves County, N.M.; John Peters,
39 Supervisor, Mono County Calif.; Jennifer Roeser, Inyo County, Calif.; Heidi Carpenter-Harris,
40 Supervisor, Trinity County, Calif.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.; Jennifer
41 O’Hearon, Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Calif.

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Allowance of 'Mechanized' Equipment as Appropriate in**
2 **Wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service**
3

4 **Issue:** This Resolution would provide for greater latitude in the MRA (Minimum Requirements
5 Analysis) that Forests must do when seeking to use more than 'primitive' tools in Wilderness
6 areas. Forests often do not have the crews to maintain trails, let alone restore when blocked or
7 destroyed by natural events. Only having authority to use primitive tools, (crosscut saws, dirt
8 bags, etc) means significant funds are expended to open very limited amounts of trails. Use of
9 wheelbarrows, chainsaws and other mechanized equipment would ensure efficiency in trail
10 maintenance and also restore access to the public whether for emergency or recreation.

11
12 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges a change of interpretation
13 of the Wilderness Act from the Washington office that would give Regions and Forests greater
14 latitude regarding the "Minimum Tool" concept and limited resources would go further.

15
16 **Background:** In the Sierra Nevada of California, particularly between Yosemite and Sequoia
17 National Parks, there is nearly 2 million acres of Wilderness. Recreation is our key economic
18 driver yet often due to natural occurrences such as thunderstorms, heavy snow, avalanches, blow
19 downs and floods, trails are blocked by debris including trees. In many cases, when trails are
20 blocked (or not maintained as is often the case due to budget limitations) not only is access to the
21 public restricted, but in many cases, trails are allowed to deteriorate so significantly as to
22 completely close beloved places.

23
24 The Forest service lacks the manpower and the budget to maintain these massive Wilderness
25 designations, and further, unlike the Park Service, their own policy does not allow for the most
26 efficient means of clearing, maintaining or re-opening trails. Their 'minimum tool concept'
27 requires the small workforce of often businesses and volunteers to use inefficient and extremely
28 laborious tools to work with. A change in policy similar to the Park Service would allow for
29 more efficient means of trail maintenance. When access is lost the public loses.

30
31 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Loss of access is critical in public lands counties where there are
32 significant Wilderness designations. This affects recreation and the businesses who provide
33 recreation services, as well as emergency rescue operations. Buildup of debris, downed trees and
34 slides create greater fire hazards and dangerous situations.

35
36 **Sponsor(s):** Jennifer Roeser, Supervisor, Inyo County, Calif.; Patrice Horstman, Supervisor,
37 Coconino County, Ariz.; John Peters, Supervisor, Mono County, Calif.; Jim Hamsher,
38 Commissioner, Grant County, Ore.; Bill Williams, County Administrator, Chaves County, N.M.;
39 Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Supervisor, Trinity County, Calif.; Bobbie Daniel, Commissioner, Mesa
40 County, Colo.; Barry Shullanberger, Commissioner, Lake County, Ore.; Ned Coe, Supervisor,
41 Modoc County, Calif.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.; Jennifer O'Hearon,
42 Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Calif.

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Wildfires**

2
3 **Issue:** Wildfires are impacting counties across the nation. This resolution calls on congress to
4 streamline environmental review for federal lands that interface urban areas.

5
6 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges streamlining
7 environmental review for federal lands that touch urban areas.

8
9 **Background:** Wildfires are destroying private property across the nation. This resolution would
10 allow for the clearing of federal lands that interface urban areas.

11
12 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Wildfires are impacting many counties rural and urban. By
13 creating a buffer area between federal and local communities it can slow the spread of fire.

14
15 **Sponsor(s):** Nathan Magsig, Supervisor, Fresno County, Calif.; John Peters, Supervisor, Mono
16 County, Calif.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.; Jennifer O’Hearon,
17 Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Calif.

18
19 **Proposed Interim Resolution Opposing Nationwide Resource Management Planning &**
20 **Supporting Federal Land Management Agencies Amending Plans Locally at the Field**
21 **Office and Forest Unit level**

22
23 **Issue:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and
24 the Forest Service (FS) within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have
25 recently conducted several nationwide land management planning efforts led by headquarter staff
26 from Washington, D.C.

27
28 These planning processes are atypical in their jurisdictional scale, the agency personnel engaged
29 in the planning process, and the responsible official. As outlined in the Federal Land Policy and
30 Management Act (FLPMA), field managers, with oversight from state directors, shall prepare
31 amendments and related environmental impact statements for BLM management plans. 43 CFR
32 1601.0-4. As outlined in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), forest supervisors are
33 the responsible official for development and approval of a plan amendment or revision for the FS
34 plans. 36 CFR § 219.2(b).

35
36 Federal land management agencies have coordination and consistency requirements with local
37 governments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that are best served by
38 federal agencies conducting planning processes at the local level.

39
40 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes federal land
41 management agencies developing amendments to local resource management plans by
42 conducting a national, multi-state, amendment process.

43
44 **Background:** On November 11, 2021, the BLM published its Notice of Intent to Amend Land
45 Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation. The rangewide planning effort includes
46 ten states and numerous counties, amends 77 BLM resource management plans, and was

1 conducted by BLM headquarters (“HQ-300”) with BLM’s Deputy Director serving as the
2 deciding official.

3
4 On December 27, 2024, the BLM published its Notice of Availability of the Approved Resource
5 Management Plan Amendments and Record of Decision for Utility-Scale Solar Energy
6 Development. The planning process was conducted by BLM HQ-300, signed by BLM’s Deputy
7 Director, and included 131 million acres of public lands, across eight states and 45 counties, and
8 amended 139 field office plans.

9
10 On December 20, 2023, the Forest Service published its Notice for the National Old Growth
11 Amendment. The National Old Growth Amendment was proposed to amend 122 national forest
12 units, across 40 states and thousands of counties. The planning effort was conducted by FS
13 headquarter staff with the deciding official being the Secretary of Agriculture.

14
15 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Encouraging resource management planning be conducted at the
16 local level increases local government engagement, reduces inefficiencies and delays, and
17 increases the likelihood for durable and sound land management decisions. Local field office and
18 forest unit staff are best suited to work with cooperating agencies because they understand the
19 land and resources as well as community needs and values.

20
21 **Sponsor(s):** John Espy, Commissioner, Carbon County, Wyo.; Amanda McKinney,
22 Commissioner, Yakima County, Wash.; Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Ravalli County, Mont.;
23 Dwayne McFall, Commissioner, Fremont County, Colo.; Bill Williams, County Manager,
24 Chaves County, N.M.; Bobbie Daniel, Commissioner, Mesa County, Colo.; John Peters,
25 Supervisor, Mono County, Calif.; Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Supervisor, Trinity County, Calif.; Ned
26 Coe, Supervisor, Modoc County, Calif.; Jennifer Roeser, Supervisor, Inyo County, Calif.; Jim
27 Hampshire, Commissioner, Grant County, Ore.; Jeness Saxton, Administrator, Sublette County,
28 Wyo.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.; Jennifer O’Hearon, Commissioner,
29 Rio Blanco County, Calif.

30
31 **Proposed Interim Resolution to Codify Federal Agency Adherence to the Administrative**
32 **Procedures Act**

33
34 **Issue:** Systematic non-compliance with federal statutes and executive orders by federal
35 agencies.

36
37 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges congressional action that
38 statutorily codifies the principles of federalism from Executive Order 13132 into the APA.

39
40 Furthermore, NACo urges appropriate and substantive revision of rules governing the Office of
41 Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) to
42 implement federalism that is protective of state and local governments.

43
44 **Background:** Direction by the Secretary of Agriculture to the United States Forest Service
45 (USFS) to make a National Old Growth Amendment (NOGA) to all Nationwide Forest Plans in
46 one amendment ran contrary to existing law. Additionally, the process subverted the

1 Administrative Procedures Act (APA) due to a lack of engagement with Cooperating Agencies
2 prior to creation of the proposed amendment.
3

4 A recent report submitted by the Montana Natural Resource Coalition of Counties to the
5 Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) demonstrates systematic non-
6 compliance with federal statutes, executive orders, and principles of federalism by six federal
7 agencies during eight major rule making actions between 2013 and 2025. The non-compliance of
8 the Department of the Interior (BLM, FWS, and NPS), Department of Labor (OSHA), and
9 Department of Agriculture (USFS) can be shown to have materially impacted state and county
10 prerogatives across the nation. The audit summarizes case studies from the administrative record
11 to demonstrate systematic neglect of the principles of Federalism as codified in the
12 Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Unfunded Mandates Act, and multiple Executive
13 Orders over time.
14

15 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** County governments across the nation would be better involved in
16 agency rulemaking through better adherence to federalism.
17

18 **Sponsor(s):** Amanda McKinney, Commissioner, Yakima County, Wash.; Greg Chilcott,
19 Commissioner, Ravalli County, Mont.; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County, Ore.;
20 Jennifer O’Hearon, Commissioner, Rio Blanco County, Calif.; John Espy, Commissioner,
21 Carbon County, Wyo.; Bill Williams, County Administrator, Chaves County, N.M.; Bill Novotny,
22 Commissioner, Johnson County, Wyo.

1 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY STEERING**
2 **COMMITTEE**

3
4 **Proposed Interim Resolution on 911.gov Program Reauthorization**
5

6 **Issue:** The absence of a standardized, nationwide 911 data collection system hinders the ability
7 of emergency services to make data-driven decisions, optimize resource allocation, and improve
8 public safety outcomes.
9

10 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to reauthorize
11 the 911.gov program under the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety
12 Administration (NHTSA). This database would be overseen by a multi-agency collaborative
13 committee comprising key government stakeholders, including the Department of Homeland
14 Security and the Federal Communications Commission, alongside representatives from public
15 safety organizations. NHTSA would be empowered to mandate data collection from Public
16 Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), ensuring
17 comprehensive and standardized data reporting. The oversight committee would be responsible
18 for defining data collection parameters, establishing uniform guidelines, and maintaining data
19 integrity.
20

21 **Background:** Counties across the United States face significant challenges in obtaining accurate,
22 comparable 911 data across jurisdictions. The lack of standardized data hinders local
23 governments’ ability to make fully informed decisions, optimize emergency response operations,
24 and deploy resources effectively. Additionally, this data gap impedes the development of national
25 standards that could enhance interoperability and coordination across agencies. As more AHJs
26 transition to Next Generation 911 (NG911) technologies, the ability to collect and analyze real-
27 time, high-quality data becomes increasingly essential for improving public safety outcomes.
28

29 Despite the critical role 911 plays in emergency response, there is currently no comprehensive
30 method for collecting fundamental data at the national level. Basic questions remain unanswered,
31 such as the total number of 911 calls made annually in the U.S., the breakdown of wireless
32 versus wireline calls, or the number of PSAPs capable of processing the highest-priority
33 emergency events within a defined timeframe. This lack of data limits the ability of decision-
34 makers to assess system performance, allocate resources efficiently, and ensure that staffing
35 levels and service delivery models align with public safety needs.
36

37 Given that approximately one-third of all 911 calls are traffic-related, NHTSA possesses
38 extensive experience and expertise in emergency communications and response operations.
39 Additionally, because emergency response is inherently linked to vehicular transportation, it is
40 imperative that this data collection effort be housed within NHTSA. Until 2023, NHTSA played
41 a pivotal role in compiling national 911 data through its annual reports, in collaboration with the
42 FCC. This initiative was one of the most comprehensive national efforts to assess 911 system
43 performance and trends. Therefore, NACo strongly supports the reauthorization and expansion of
44 the 911.gov program, with NHTSA serving as the lead agency for this initiative.

1 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** This resolution supports NHTSA in staffing and administering a
2 national 911 data collection program. Compliance measures for AHJs should be designed with
3 flexibility, incorporating multiple reporting methods to minimize financial and operational
4 burdens on local jurisdictions. By ensuring a centralized and efficient data collection system, this
5 initiative will enhance emergency response capabilities across urban, suburban, and rural
6 communities alike.

7
8 **Sponsor(s):** Alan W. Perdue, County Commissioner, Guilford County, N.C.

9
10 **Proposed Interim Resolution on Funding for 911 Public Safety Emergency**
11 **Telecommunications**

12
13 **Issue:** Regional public safety telecommunications centers, especially those that serve rural and
14 historically underserved populations, are not able to keep pace with technological advancements,
15 upgrading of aged and obsolete equipment, and increasing service demands.

16
17 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the strengthening,
18 through additional funding and increased eligibility, of the ability of counties to modernize and
19 expand their public safety (fire, EMS, law enforcement, and emergency management)
20 dispatching and telecommunications capabilities. NACo further supports prioritization of
21 funding and eligibility for counties that serve rural and historically underserved populations.

22
23 **Background:** 911 emergency communications systems are facing a number of significant
24 challenges, including the following:

25
26 Transitioning to Next Generation 911 (NG911):

- 27 • **Funding:** Upgrading to NG911 is expensive, and many jurisdictions struggle to secure the
28 necessary funding.
- 29 • **Implementation:** Implementing NG911 involves complex technological changes and
30 requires significant training and coordination.
- 31 • **Interoperability:** Ensuring seamless communication and data sharing between different
32 NG911 systems across jurisdictions remains a challenge.

33
34 Locating Wireless Callers:

- 35 • **Accuracy:** Pinpointing the location of wireless 911 callers, especially indoors, can be
36 inaccurate and delay emergency response.
- 37 • **Rapidly Changing Technology:** The evolving landscape of wireless technologies (5G,
38 IoT) presents new challenges for location accuracy.

39
40 Increasing Call Volume:

- 41 • **Strain on Resources:** The volume of 911 calls continues to rise, straining call centers and
42 potentially leading to longer wait times.
- 43 • **Non-Emergency Calls:** A significant portion of 911 calls are for non-emergency
44 situations, diverting resources from true emergencies.

1 Cybersecurity Threats:

- 2 • Vulnerabilities: 911 systems are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks, which could
- 3 disrupt service and compromise sensitive data.
- 4 • Data Protection: Protecting the privacy and security of caller data is crucial, especially in
- 5 the age of advanced technologies.

6

7 Mental Health Crisis Calls:

- 8 • Strain on Dispatchers: The increasing number of mental health crisis calls places a
- 9 significant emotional and psychological burden on dispatchers.
- 10 • Lack of Adequate Resources: Many 911 centers lack the resources and training to
- 11 effectively handle mental health crises.

12

13 Integration of New Technologies:

- 14 • Artificial Intelligence (AI): While AI can potentially improve call routing and response
- 15 times, its ethical and responsible use within the 911 system needs careful consideration.
- 16 • Internet of Things (IoT): Integrating data from IoT devices into the 911 system can
- 17 enhance situational awareness, but also raises concerns about privacy and security.

18

19 These are just some of the key challenges facing 911 systems today. These systems are an

20 integral part of the nation’s natural and technological disaster response capabilities. If a 911

21 system fails or is not properly resourced, emergency resources cannot be properly dispatched and

22 coordinated during a disaster. Day-to-day emergencies (fires, police responses, EMS incidents)

23 will not be handled in a timely, effective manner and lives will be lost.

24

25 Existing programs that can provide additional funding and increased eligibility to support local

26 governments in addressing these challenges can include (but are not limited to): Broadband

27 Technical Assistance Program (BTA), Emergency Rural Health Care (ERHC) Grant Program,

28 Broadband Infrastructure Program, Emergency Operations Center Grant Program, Assistance to

29 Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

30 Grant Program, and Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice (OJP) programs.

31

32 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Would provide new federal funds or expand eligibility criteria on

33 existing funding programs to counties to support efforts to keep 9-1-1 communications

34 capabilities up-to-date.

35

36 **Sponsor(s):** Christopher Coates, County Administrator, Cheshire County, N.H.

TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Federal Support for Federal Safety Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries in Micromobility Devices

Issue: Our nation has witnessed an increase in deadly fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices. The lithium-ion batteries can become overcharged or damaged and create explosive and deadly fires that put both firefighters and the public at risk.

Proposed Policy: NACo urges Congress to pass H.R 973/S. 389. the “Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act”. This bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to promulgate safety standards for lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices.

Background: Since 1995, there have been 340 reported fatalities and 1,982 reported injuries due to lithium-ion batteries found in micromobility devices. In New York City, since 2020, there have been more than 400 fires related to lithium-ion batteries. These fires resulted in more than 300 injuries, 12 deaths and damage to more than 320 structures and more than 100 non-structures. In March 2021, the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire in Harrisburg, PA experienced a line of duty death due to a lithium-ion batteries found in hoverboards. Rural college towns like Gainesville, Florida experienced several fires due to devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. At least two of these fires involved surrounding structures and dwellings.

As is evident by the number of incidents and growing popularity of these devices, the dangers these devices present are also on the rise. When one of these devices catches fire in multi-family dwellings, multiple families can be affected. This can leave residents without a place to call home. Or worse, injury or death to citizens who just wanted to use a different mode of transportation.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: To prevent further damage, injury, and deaths from lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices, Congress must pass legislation to develop safety standards for these dangerous batteries and their various components. This legislation does not require appropriations to be enacted. The core mission of the CPSC is to promulgate federal safety regulations. Moreover, the longer Congress takes to enact this legislation, the costs of harm and damage to residents will only increase. Urban counties tend to struggle with the response and recovery if these fires are present in multi-family dwellings. New York City is not alone when it comes to dealing with these fires - Seattle, San Diego, Los Angeles, Houston and other large urban cities, are also experiencing these incidents. Rural fire departments also tend to struggle with the response to these incidents. When rural first responders encounter fires from micromobility devices, they are presented with new/unique challenges that they are not otherwise used to. Many rural fire departments do not have the necessary training and tools to suppress these types of fires. The entirety of the fire service, plus the American public, would all benefit if these devices are made fire safe.

Sponsor(s): Dan Eggleston, Fire Chief, Albemarle County, Va.

1 **Proposed Interim Resolution in Support of Transportation Project-Specific Permitting**
2 **Reform in FY2026 Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation**
3

4 **Issue:** Federal permitting requirements for transportation projects are onerous and prolong
5 project timelines due to their duplicative and inefficient nature. During periods of higher-than-
6 normal inflation, these delays cause significant increases in overall project costs, which reduce
7 the number of projects that counties can achieve with limited budgets. As Congress develops the
8 next surface transportation bill, it is critical that the federal permitting process be reformed to
9 shorten project timelines and reduce overall costs.

10
11 **Proposed Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to continue
12 bipartisan progress toward streamlining the federal permitting process for transportation projects
13 by making commonsense reforms a central part of any upcoming surface transportation
14 reauthorization legislation. In general, such policy should eliminate redundancies, maximize
15 flexibility and efficiency, and bring down project timeframes and costs
16 while maintaining protections for community input and the environment. Specifically, reforms
17 should reduce duplicative requirements that hinder safety and endanger progress by expanding
18 categorical exclusions to cover projects where 1) the main goal is to improve safety; 2) the
19 project is performing maintenance and/or repair on an asset that has already undergone the
20 permitting process; and 3) projects that support the development or redevelopment of housing.
21 Additionally, NACo believes that Congress should prioritize flexibility for both agencies and
22 applicants to ensure that permitting requirements can adapt to the urgency of a given situation.
23

24 **Background:** During the 118th Congress, there was considerable focus on energy permitting
25 reform, with numerous pieces of legislation introduced. Nevertheless, the majority of these
26 proposals lacked transportation-specific permitting reform provisions. Since his inauguration,
27 President Trump has issued several executive orders targeting permitting reform. However, more
28 information is required on how county governments will participate in expedited transportation
29 and infrastructure permitting processes under this Administration. This is particularly important
30 for counties working to rebuild after disasters, where permitting delays can slow down essential
31 recovery efforts. Streamlining these processes will help counties respond more efficiently to
32 infrastructure damage, protect public safety and accelerate long-term resilience efforts.
33

34 **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** Transportation permitting reform would streamline project
35 approvals, reduce costs and enhance safety in both urban and rural areas.
36

37 **Sponsor(s):** Eileen Higgins, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, Fla.