

September 15, 2024

To the Honorable Members of Congress,

I am reaching out to you today to express my concerns regarding HR 4790, which is scheduled for a vote this week.

In recent years, special interest groups have been attempting to restrict local government and the free market through legislation and resolutions. As of 2023, 165 such pieces of legislation have been introduced at the state level. HR 4790 is another piece of legislation brought forward by these special interest groups. Similar legislation to that of HR 4790 that has passed on the state level has resulted in restricting the option of local governments and financial institutions, billions lost in pension fund returns, and costing the taxpayer millions more in critical infrastructure projects due to increased municipal bond rates. If similar legislation were ever to be passed at the national level, local government in rural, suburban, and urban communities nationwide would be heavily regulated and restrained. It would prohibit local government and elected officials from making the best decisions for their communities regarding pensions, municipal bonds, and government funds.

This summer, the National Association of Counties (NACo), an organization that advocates and provides services to the nation's 3069 counties and their governments, with a total membership of 2,350 counties representing more than 80% of the nation's population, adopted a resolution titled: Protection Local Control and Fiduciary Responsibility into the organizations 2024-2025 American County Platform. As a County Treasurer, board member of NACo, and chair of NACo's fiscal policy and pensions subcommittee, I know the damages that legislation such as HR 4790 can have on local government and communities nationwide. This is why I presented this resolution to NACo that passed unanimously in order to protect local control and public fiduciary at the national and local level.

I urge you, the members of the US Congress, to oppose legislation and resolutions this week and in the future that seek to prohibit local governments' control over pensions, municipal bonds, and government funds, such as HR 4790. Such legislation is anti-local control and anti-free market. It would prevent elected officials from fulfilling their duties to their constituents. I urge you to keep government local and our economy a free market that big government does not restrict or control.

Sincerely,



Coconino County Treasurer Sarah Benatar

Sarah Benatar

County Treasurer

sbenatar@coconino.az.gov

Susan Walka

*Chief Deputy
Treasurer*

swalka@coconino.az.gov

110 E. Cherry Ave.

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

928-679-8188 P

928-213-9243 F

877-500-1818



THE AMERICAN COUNTY
PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS
2024-2025

FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution on Protecting Local Control and Fiduciary Responsibility

Issue: Special interest groups are actively collaborating on a nationwide campaign to restrict and eliminate local authority regarding pensions, municipal bonds, and government funds by passing legislation and resolutions at both the national and state levels that oppose local control and free-market principles. These policies threaten county governments' ability to deliver services to meet their own community's needs by restricting access to essential data and regulating local government.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Administration to oppose anti-local control and anti-free-market policies such as the Fair Access to Bank Act 2023, HR 4790, and H.J. Res.30 2023. The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Administration to support policies that provide for local governments' ability to invest and borrow as they self-determine, which must include continued access to free capital and credit markets. Furthermore, NACo urges Congress and the Administration to oppose legislation and policies which don't support free enterprise and restrict local governments from fulfilling their elected duties to act as careful stewards of taxpayer resources.

Approved | July 15, 2024

Resolution Urging Congressional and Administration Commitment to Timely Enactment of Federal Budget Appropriations and No More Shutdowns

Issue: The purpose of this resolution is to urge Congress and the President to work together to enact all federal budget appropriations bills by Oct. 1 of each new fiscal year, thereby avoiding continuing resolutions and government shutdowns, which create costly delays and uncertainty in providing federal assistance and programs for U.S. counties and their residents.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the president to commit to working together to reach an agreement on all spending legislation by Oct. 1 of each year. This is a fundamental responsibility of both Congress and the President and should be taken more seriously. Counties work hard to get their budgets approved on a timely basis, and Congress should do the same. Our citizens deserve no less.

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Resolution to Support Legislation to Empower State and Counties to Enforce the Collection of State and Local Taxes on Short- and Long-Term Rental

Issue: Discrepancies in the ability of counties to enforce the collection of occupancy tax on short-term and long-term rental properties have resulted in the loss of potential tax revenue used for county services and development projects.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal efforts that support the authority for all counties to enforce laws that provide for the collection of taxes on short- and long-term rentals.