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## United States Senate

September 26, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to reiterate my full support for cancellation of improperly awarded leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana.

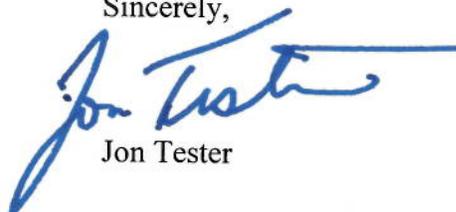
I understand that Solenex LLC has recently filed a motion for summary judgment challenging your decision to cancel its lease and that the government's reply is pending. The 47 leases granted by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service in 1982 were awarded without any consultation of the Tribe and without adequate environmental studies required by law. The longstanding drilling moratorium and voluntary relinquishment of the majority of the leases has helped protect the area, but the remaining leases continue to pose a risk.

As you saw when you visited the Badger-Two Medicine area earlier this year, the area has unique cultural, historical, spiritual, and recreational significance to the people of the Blackfoot Nation and Montana. And as you heard from representatives of the Blackfoot Indian Tribe, we must do everything in our power to safeguard the important cultural resources and to guarantee access to and preservation of religious sites important to the Blackfoot people.

Montanans from all walks of life have expressed overwhelming support for protecting the Badger-Two Medicine area. On behalf of my constituents, I urge you to defend your decision to cancel the Solenex lease and to work to extinguish the remaining leases so that generations to come may experience this truly unique and inspiring place.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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