

United States Senate

January 24, 2017

The Honorable John Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I write to congratulate you on your confirmation to become the next Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The scope and responsibilities of this position are sweeping and I look forward to your leadership of the Department. The work you do will have significant impacts on Montanans' security and economy, which is why I would like to invite you to visit the state this summer.

The DHS mission in Montana is unique. Canada remains Montana's largest international market and we share more than 540 miles of the United States-Canadian border. The volume of goods passing through our ports and geographical features challenge Customs and Border Protection's (CBP's) mission to facilitate trade while discouraging illegal crossings into the United States. The Department has made use of smart deployment strategies, mobile technologies, and scanning technologies that both help keep Americans safe and encourage economic ties with Canada.

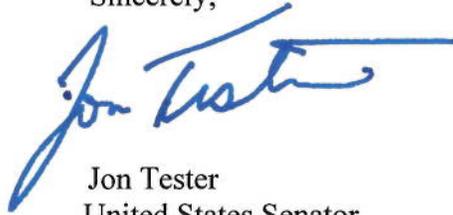
Natural disaster preparedness is also a critical issue to Montanans and DHS funding and mitigation efforts play an important role. As we commence with a new budget cycle, you will see firsthand the importance in our state of first responder grants, the National Flood Insurance Program, and recovery funding.

As discussed in my meeting with you, Montana's landscape and extended border present unique challenges for coverage by CBP, local law enforcement, Tribal communities, and border communities. It is imperative that you visit Montana's border firsthand in order to understand these challenges and the need for sufficient staffing along Montana's ports of entry. This trip will also allow you to get out on the ground with local partners, federal officials, and Canadian law enforcement and ultimately help you better understand the role Montana communities play in keeping our country safe.

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I look forward to working together to strengthen our nation's security and protect Montana's communities and businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester
United States Senator