



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

MAR 04 2016

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Tester,

Thank you for your letter regarding funding to the Montana National Guard Counterdrug Program (CDP). I share your concern over the increase in illicit narcotics activity in the Bakken region and locations designated as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). In response to this emerging threat and the current national heroin crisis, I have directed an additional 60 percent increase in funding to the CDPs in HIDTA. The increase will enhance National Guard (NG) support to the regional HIDTA office that covers several Montana counties.

The NG support of law enforcement organizations countrywide has never been more vital because of the influx of transnational criminal organizations operating within our borders, and the steady increase in illicit narcotics. The CDP has developed a Threat Based Resource Model to account for support requirements across all States, territories, and the District of Columbia, and to ensure limited resources are appropriately allocated nationwide.

Thank you again for your support of the NG and the CDP. I will continue to work with Montana's Adjutant General and Counterdrug Coordinator in support of the counterdrug organizations within your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Grass".

Frank Grass
General, U.S. Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau

cc:
TAG-MT