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# United States Senate

August 21, 2018

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Vice-Chairman  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20510

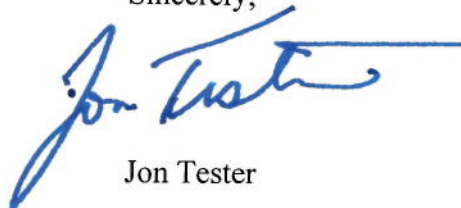
Dear Chairman Hoeven and Vice-Chairman Udall:

I write to express grave concern regarding the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women epidemic happening in Montana and across the United States. I respectfully request a hearing on the issue to bring together all the relevant agencies of jurisdiction, tribal representatives, and most importantly, Indigenous women, to the table to receive testimony and work toward finding solutions.

During a recent meeting in Montana, my constituents told me that 20 women have gone missing since the beginning of the calendar year. Only one has been found. This is completely unacceptable and jarring. It is time we prioritize the significant challenges that Native women face and identify barriers that give way to the staggering statistics we see today.

I believe a hearing is a critical step that will not only help raise awareness, but provide a space for much needed dialogue to foster action. Native women across the country have been at the forefront of this issue calling for their voices to be heard. It is time we receive that call to action and shed light on this crisis that Native women and girls face. This is not just an Indigenous issue, but an issue that impacts us all. We owe it to the thousands of women and their families to come together and find solutions that prevent these horrible acts from happening. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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