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United States Senate

Mark A. Morgan
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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Kevin Shea
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service
4700 River Road
Washington, DC 20510

July 28, 2020

Acting Commissioner Morgan and Administrator Shea:

I am reaching out today regarding recent reports that individuals are receiving unsolicited packages of seeds that appear to be from somewhere in China. I urge you to take swift action to identify the source of the seeds and curtail future deliveries to prevent a potential invasive species outbreak.

In the last few days, several states, including Montana, have filed reports of residents receiving unidentifiable and unsolicited packages of seeds in the mail. These seeds bear no markings identifying what kind of plant they may be, and the packages appear to have Chinese writing on them. If folks plant unidentified seeds from abroad, it could lead to an unmanaged invasive species outbreak. Especially in places like Montana, this could be devastating to local wildlife, agriculture, and our public and private lands.

As such, please provide the following information as quickly as possible:

- When are you going to identify what the seeds are and tell the public?
- What protocol is in place to prevent the importation of unsolicited plant matter?
- What specific marking on these packages granted them approval through US Customs?
- Are the buyer and seller of these packages evident from the customs paperwork?
- What official steps and guidance are being given to State Departments of Agriculture and individuals who received packages?
- How do you plan to recall the seeds?
- How are you working to prevent an invasive species outbreak in the cases where individuals may have unknowingly planted the seeds?

I appreciate your prompt attention to this issue, and I urge you to take quick steps to address the origin and impact of these seeds. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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