

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
COMMERCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

October 5, 2021

Suzan G. LeVine
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Ms. LeVine:

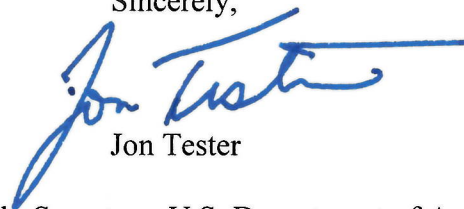
I write today to continue to urge you to reopen Montana Job Corps Centers for in-person learning. The Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center and the Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center play a critical role in the development of many young adults in Montana and continue to have strong support from their communities and alumni. I request that you reopen these centers as quickly as possible to continue developing the growing minds of Montana.

Montana's Job Corps center provide hundreds of Montana youth with practical skills, service learning opportunities, and career and technical education. Since their closure in March of 2020, Job Corps has struggled to keep participants connected to the program.

While I appreciate your efforts to create virtual options during the pandemic, these options are not an appropriate learning environment for many of the skills taught in Job Corps centers and many participants do not have reliable access to internet and the required technology. If we have the mitigation strategies to keep K-12 students and military personnel safe, we can certainly mitigate COVID risks in Montana's Job Corp centers.

I appreciate your willingness to work with Congress to address ongoing workforce shortages. I remain ready to work with you to restore full operation of these critical facilities, including much needed in-person enrollment to serve Montana's opportunity youth.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

CC: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
CC: The Honorable Martin J. Walsh, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor