

## United States Senate

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.  
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness  
4000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Under Secretary Cisneros,

I write in response to the troubling findings from the ongoing missile cancer study affecting airmen at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. I am deeply alarmed by the Air Force's most recent study, released this week, which revealed that unsafe levels of a likely carcinogen have been detected at Malmstrom. Our missileers play a critical role in protecting Montana and our nation, and I am calling on the Defense Department to ensure all potentially impacted servicemembers and their families receive swift answers and appropriate care.

It is urgent that the Air Force work immediately to identify any potential risk to servicemembers, and ensure anyone who has been exposed to harmful conditions or that incurred an illness due to their service receive the care they need.

Given the troubling results from samples taken at Malmstrom, airmen who serve there and their families are understandably concerned about their health and safety, and are looking to the Air Force for prompt notification and a swift investigation. To that end, it is critical the Department share with my office and these airmen a detailed schedule of planned activities regarding the ongoing missile cancer study. The Department must put in place a plan to ensure servicemembers, contractors, and civilians are aware of the potential risks and available resources when they arrive to affected locations, as well as updating training and remediation plans to ensure Malmstrom Air Force Base is safe for operations.

I also encourage the Department to include its plans to coordinate analysis and findings of the cancer study with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the schedule. This includes coordination of community awareness outreach to inform transitioning servicemembers of potential risk, ongoing analysis, and available resources; ensuring military treatment facilities and Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities the vicinity of impacted sites prepare for and support community surveillance and treatment capabilities; coordinate with national and regional health care systems to support community surveillance; and inform impacted servicemembers, contractors, veterans, and civilians of the potential risks and available resources.

I look forward to your prompt response. The brave men and women who serve and who have served at Malmstrom deserve no less from their government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jon Tester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester  
United States Senator