



July 11, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence  
The White House  
Office of the Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C 20500

Secretary of State Kris Kobach  
Kansas Secretary of State  
Memorial Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
120 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612

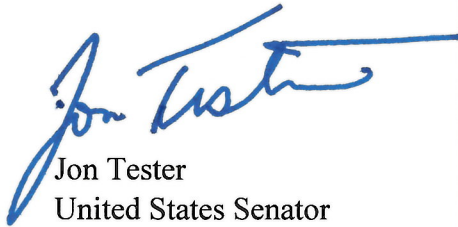
Dear Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Kobach:

We are contacting you today with deep concerns regarding your broad request for sensitive information relating to individuals' Social Security Numbers and political party identifications. Frankly, Montanans do not take kindly to this type of federal government overreach. We respectfully ask that you rescind this request and urge you to publicly clarify that no state will be forced to provide information by your commission or any other federal entity.

We have heard from concerned, law-abiding Montanans that your commission is threatening their privacy. Based on your comments, Secretary of State Kobach, we are concerned that the U.S. Department of Justice might force states to provide personal information to your commission against their will. These threats only raise greater privacy concerns for those whom we serve.


Your blanket request for this data highlights a number of questions about the efficacy and real aims of the commission's work. We are perplexed that your commission would even seek this information given the fact that numerous states' laws preclude them from sharing it. Equally troubling is your request for party affiliations of every voter in states where that information is available. We must protect the right to vote of all eligible individuals whether they are Republicans, Libertarians, Democrats, Independents, or anyone in between. Collecting this data across the country will threaten the privacy, freedom and voting rights of thousands of Montanans and millions of Americans.

We all share an interest in ensuring our elections are free and fair. We urge you to work in a way that neither threatens the privacy of the American people nor undermines the confidence in our elections.



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

Respectfully,



Steve Bullock  
Montana Governor