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United States Senate

March 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write today regarding the vacancy on the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the need for leaders who will fight for a more transparent campaign finance system. During your campaign, you frequently and correctly criticized our current campaign finance system that drowns out the voices of everyday Americans at the benefit of large corporations and billionaires. I respectfully urge you to nominate an individual who will stand up against this trend and work to rein in this broken system.

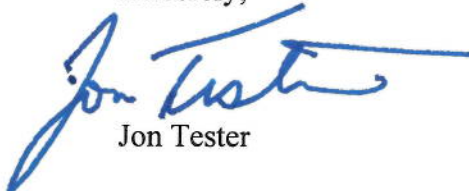
We have seen incredible amounts of money flow into our elections since the reckless *Citizens United* decision in 2010. Nearly \$7 billion was spent between the presidential and congressional races last cycle. And since 2007, more than \$800 million has been spent by dark money groups that don't have to disclose their donors. Ms. Ann Ravel's resignation provides a great opportunity to nominate an individual who will work to shed some much needed light on the flood of money that is influencing our democracy.

As president, you have an incredible opportunity to work with members of the FEC to bring some transparency to our campaign finance system. To that end, I have introduced the SUN Act which would make public the names of donors who give more than \$5,000 to dark money groups. I also have a bipartisan bill that would improve transparency in U.S. Senate races by requiring candidates to file their fundraising reports online. I would welcome your support for these pieces of legislation and would hope that whomever you nominate for this open position on the FEC would see these bills as a priority.

I also respectfully ask that you adhere to the tradition of nominating an individual from the same party of the outgoing commissioner. It is imperative that this nominee is selected in close consultation with Senate Democratic leadership.

Working together, we can empower the voices of everyday Americans and increase sunlight in our campaign finance system. I stand ready to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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