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United States Senate

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing to invite you to Montana to witness firsthand the ongoing and lasting impacts of a devastating wildfire season. These wildfires have tragically taken the lives of two brave firefighters in Montana while also destroying property and threatening the health and economies of much of the state.

We have already seen more than one million acres of Montana burn up in these wildfires and this fire season is not showing signs of stopping anytime soon. Governor Steve Bullock declared a state of emergency in July and the Montana National Guard has been mobilized to support wildfire fighting efforts across the state. Thousands of Montanans have been evacuated from their homes and numerous communities have been engulfed in fire and smoke for weeks. I believe you would benefit from an on the ground tour to ensure the needs of these communities are being met.

The people in the small towns and rural communities across Montana embody many of our nation's greatest strengths. The hard-working people of these communities have lost homes, livestock, and livelihoods. They are struggling to cope with the devastation these fires have caused and continue to cause across the state. Additionally, outdoor recreation is one of Montana's biggest economic drivers. The effects of fire and smoke on small businesses is not yet quantified, but it is catastrophic for many.

I respectfully ask that you find time to visit these fires firsthand, and would look forward to personally welcoming you to Big Sky Country. This will give you an opportunity to meet the people who have persevered through clouds of smoke raining ash, evacuations from family homes, and some of the largest fires in the nation. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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