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## United States Senate

November 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Chairman Hatch:

I write today regarding the federal estate tax and the expected introduction of a tax reform proposal in the Senate. I encourage you to use this opportunity to protect small, working family farms and ranches.

Agriculture is the backbone of Montana's economy. Our family farmers and ranchers grow and raise the highest quality grain and livestock in the world. These folks sustain rural communities across Montana while feeding people around the globe. We should ensure that any changes to our tax code do not undermine their ability to pass their working family farm or ranch land to their children. That is why I joined a bipartisan coalition to exempt more of these estates from the federal estate tax.

As I have always told Senate leaders, you must also rein in this nation's rapidly growing debt. For too long both Democrats and Republicans have been more than happy to swipe our grandkids' credit card to the tune of more than \$20 trillion. This is completely irresponsible and dangerous to the economy that future generations will inherit. We can protect working family farms and ranches while still ensuring that billionaires pay their fair share in taxes, and that our nation's great wealth is not consolidated at the top and out-of-reach for millions of Americans who work hard every day to make lives better for their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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