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United States Senate

September 30, 2020

Commissioner Robert Manfred
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

I write again to express my concerns about the future of the Pioneer League baseball teams in Montana. The contract between the Major League Baseball (MLB) and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) expires today, leaving the future of professional baseball in Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula in doubt. While the pandemic will continue to create hardships for live audience events in the near future, I believe we cannot let current events undercut the importance of having a strong professional baseball presence in these communities in the long run. That's why I strongly urge you to commit to negotiating a new contract with MiLB that maintains or expands Pioneer League baseball in Montana.

With no major league professional sport teams in Montana, or in any bordering states, the presence of the Pioneer League is our best connection to professional sports. Throughout the years, the MLB's footprint in the state created thousands of life-long baseball fans. The communities of Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula have supported the Pioneer League with modern facilities that create a high-quality experience for players and fans. In addition, dozens of small businesses invest in marketing with Montana's teams to support the franchises.

I hear from local officials in my state about the heartbreak the absence of the Pioneer League could have on their communities' fans and businesses. As I have repeatedly discussed with MLB officials over the last year, I strongly believe the future of MLB will also be harmed by pulling out of rural states like Montana. A baseball fan pays the same amount for an MLB.TV subscription whether they live in Manhattan, Montana or Manhattan, New York.

MLB should not walk away from its rural fans. I stand ready to work with you to ensure the Pioneer League continues to grow and succeed in Montana. I ask that you please keep me

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updated as negotiations continue, and I urge you to enter into a new contract with MiLB that preserves the Pioneer League. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester