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United States Senate

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

David Bernhardt
Acting Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Peter Gaynor
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Secretary Perdue, Secretary Chao, Acting Secretary Bernhardt, and Acting Administrator Gaynor:

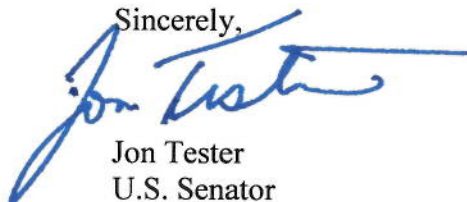
I write today urging your immediate attention to the flooding crisis facing communities across Montana. Specifically, I ask that you stand ready to provide federal support should they be requested by the State of Montana where rapid snowmelt has flooded highways and roads, reduced agricultural trade, and harmed businesses and municipal services.

This spring melt is severely impacting road conditions in Montana. Dozens of miles of Interstate 90 and numerous roads across the state remain closed due to flooding. The weather forecast is calling for another winter storm with heavy wet snow later this week, which will likely worsen conditions within the state.

In addition to flooding, the harsh weather conditions are also affecting access to clean drinking water for Crow Reservation residents. The hard freezes and subsequent thaw led to multiple mainline pipe breaks. With the damaged infrastructure, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) water treatment plant cannot currently treat enough water to meet essential needs of the community. Some residents have been without tap water for more than a week, which is a problem that must be expeditiously addressed.

I stand ready to work together on a swift and effective response to these issues facing Montana communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
U.S. Senator