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United States Senate

June 26, 2020

Susan Messerly
Rocky Mountain Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2021 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101

Acting Director Messerly:

I am writing to urge you to swiftly make the necessary repairs to open the Lame Deer Jail on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation as an 8-hour holding facility. The Tribe has made it clear that this facility is necessary to meet the public safety needs on their reservation.

For months, the Tribe has requested that the Lame Deer Jail be opened to ease some of the transportation and resource issues that arose following the opening of the Rocky Mountain Regional Detention Facility in Hardin, Montana. While the Rocky Mountain Regional Detention Facility addressed the dire issue of overcrowding at the Lame Deer jail, the nearly 60 miles between Lame Deer and Hardin created new challenges for inmates, families and law enforcement.

I encourage you to continue working cooperatively with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to open Lame Deer Jail as an 8-hour hold facility as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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