

United States Senate

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Wyden:

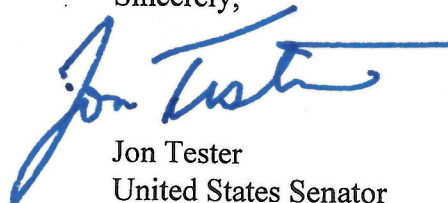
As we move into a new phase of negotiations on reconciliation, I write to reiterate that I cannot support the proposed changes in the American Families Plan to “stepped-up basis” which would negatively impact a families’ ability to keep running a farm, ranch, or small business from one generation to the next. We need to protect our family farms, ranches, and small businesses. They are the life blood of rural communities all across the country.

These small family operations need predictability to plan for the transitions that enable their businesses to thrive across generations. The elimination of “stepped-up basis” could have a catastrophic impact on small businesses in Montana. We should be working to support these family businesses, not making changes that put their continued operation in jeopardy.

I’m proud to work to protect Montana’s family farms and ranches – whether from consolidation and lack of competition in the marketplace, tariffs and trade wars in recent years, or from changes to the tax code that hurt predictability or could cause these small inter-generational operations to sell assets to pay a new tax assessed at the time of a family member’s death. I know that we share the goal of protecting these small businesses.

I continue to strongly oppose any change to the tax code that would hurt the continued operation of family farms, ranches, and small businesses. I appreciate the work you are both doing to create good-paying jobs and invest in working families. I stand ready to continue this work as negotiations continue.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator