

United States Senate

August 27, 2024

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

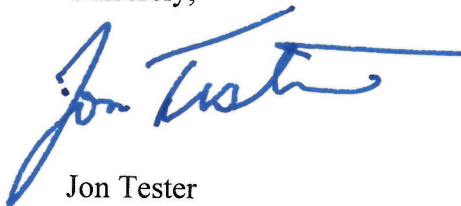
I write to urge you to provide immediate assistance to farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by the Remington wildfire in southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming.

The 196,387-acre Remington fire began in Wyoming on Thursday, August 22, and crossed over the Montana-Wyoming border and into Big Horn, Rosebud, and Powder River Counties in Montana on the afternoon of Sunday, August 25. It is currently the largest active wildfire in Montana, where 75 fires are actively burning across the state. Firefighters are working hard to contain the wildfire, and I understand that the crews involved are making considerable progress as the weather cools. I am grateful for the incredible work of the first responders in the area who have kept folks out of harm's way and are putting their lives on the line to protect our communities and public lands.

In Montana, wildfires pose a serious threat to farmers and ranchers and can have devastating economic and environmental impacts on their operations. I am hearing from folks on the ground that the Remington fire has killed countless livestock and destroyed pasture land, fencing, and property structures as it expands through southeastern Montana. Total livestock losses remain unknown, but it is clear that this fire is significantly impacting Montanan agricultural producers and putting them at risk of losing their land and livelihoods.

Given the severity of the Remington fire, I ask that you act swiftly to provide Montana's agricultural producers with the emergency assistance that they need to respond to this disaster and protect our nation's food systems. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester