

# United States Senate

September 17, 2024

The Honorable Julie Su  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Acting Secretary Su, Secretary Vilsack, and Secretary Raimondo:

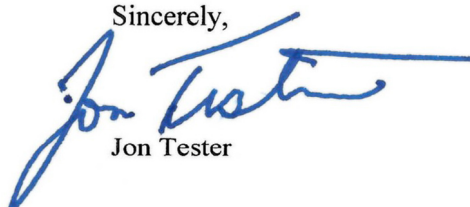
I write to call your attention to a group of workers in Montana that need the immediate support of your agencies. Late last week, Sibanye-Stillwater announced significant layoffs at its palladium mine in Montana because Russian dumping is severely depressing the price of palladium. Through no fault of their own, hundreds of hardworking miners are going to lose their jobs. This is devastating news for many Montana families, the communities surrounding the mine, and local businesses. In the coming weeks, it is critically important that your agencies work to maximize the availability of federal initiatives designed to support the affected workers and communities.

One item that will require your attention is a quick review and approval of any application submitted by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry for National Dislocated Worker Assistance. This program provides resources in response to major economic events and will help Montana miners get access to employment and training services. In addition to National Dislocated Worker Assistance, the Department of Labor should work to identify and offer other employment services to help individuals recover from the job loss and plan for reemployment.

I also request that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) use any tools at your disposal to assist these workers and communities. EDA and USDA RD both have initiatives that can help communities through economic development organizations and local governments, and I urge you to make any relevant resources available.

I stand ready to work with you to support the local workforce and help the region rebound. I look forward to your response and immediate consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester