



Homeland  
Security

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Tim Fox  
Attorney General  
Montana Department of Justice  
215 N. Sanders, Third Floor  
P.O. Box 201401  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Attorney General Fox:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognizes the State of Montana's efforts in supporting our shared goal of improving the security of State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

Montana has provided adequate justification, including your State's commitment to becoming fully compliant with all REAL ID requirements, for DHS to grant it an extension through October 10, 2017, to meet the standards of the REAL ID Act and regulation. For the duration of this extension, federal agencies may accept Montana issued driver's licenses and identification cards for official purposes. For your convenience and based on information provided by your state, enclosed is a list of regulatory provisions that Montana currently meets and the timeline for when it expects to implement the outstanding provisions needed to become fully compliant.

I am granting this extension based on information provided by your jurisdiction that indicates a demonstrable commitment to achieving full compliance with the REAL ID Act. I am committed to enforcing the REAL ID Act in accordance with the phased enforcement schedule and regulatory timeframes and am not inclined to grant additional extensions to any states that are not both committed to achieving full compliance *and* making substantial and documented progress in satisfying any unmet requirements. Extensions are provided at my discretion to give states the limited additional amount of time necessary to satisfy outstanding requirements.

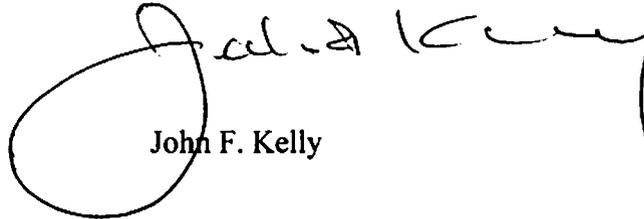
The goal of the REAL ID Act is to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and hinder terrorists' ability to evade detection by using fake or fraudulently-obtained IDs. To accomplish this goal, REAL ID established minimum security standards, such as incorporating anti-counterfeiting technology into IDs, preventing insider fraud by those involved in the issuance and production processes, and establishing that a person is who she/he claims to be through documentary evidence and records checks. It has been 12 years since the REAL ID Act was passed and Montana has not met all of the REAL ID requirements. To be considered for further extensions, Montana will need to demonstrate that it

is expediting the implementation of any outstanding REAL ID requirements. Otherwise, following the expiration of your current extension, your residents will need to have an alternative acceptable ID for use as identification for REAL ID official purposes, including at TSA security checkpoints beginning January 22, 2018. A full list of acceptable IDs for boarding commercial aircraft can be found at [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov). I implore you to either move now to take the steps needed to become compliant or prepare your residents to obtain an alternative acceptable form of ID, such as directing them to [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for information on obtaining a U.S. passport.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or DHS's Office of State Issued Identification Support at (202) 447-3871 if you have any questions or comments about this extension. For all other homeland security matters, you may contact the DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 282-9310.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other homeland security issues.

Sincerely,



John F. Kelly

Enclosure

cc: General Matt Quinn, Adjutant General, Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Sarah R. Garcia, Administrator, Motor Vehicle Division, Montana Department of Justice