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State-Tribal Relations Committee

66th Montana Legislature

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U.S. Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604

November 12, 2019

U.S. Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte
1222 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Representative Gianforte,

The Montana Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee respectfully requests that you urge the U.S. Department of State to conduct a more rigorous and meaningful public comment process for the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) recently released for the proposed pipeline in northeast Montana.

Scheduling only one public meeting in the country is hardly sufficient for a project with the potential for broad impacts. Additionally, the format of the Department of State's October 29 meeting in Billings provided limited information to the public and did not afford participants the opportunity to listen to the comments of other stakeholders. The lack of a formal presentation and a forum in which attendees could publicly provide input is inconsistent with past practices and denies stakeholders a chance to develop common ground and understanding.

Per discussions with members of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and the Fort Peck Tribes, we are particularly concerned with the lack of formal consultation with tribal governments whose natural and cultural resources could be significantly impacted.

For these reasons, we ask you to take immediate action to ask the Department of State to seek further public comment and consultation with tribes on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Small".

Sen. Jason Small, Chairman

cc: Ross Alliston, U.S. Department of State

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