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State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

66th Montana Legislature

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August 25, 2020

DRAFT

Dear Secretary Stapleton:

During this interim's HJ 10 study of barriers to voting by American Indians in Montana, the State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) heard repeated testimony about challenges associated with mailed voting materials in Indian Country.

Sometimes mail fails to reach the intended recipient in a timely manner, if at all, because multiple families share post office boxes due to limited housing and limited opportunity for residential mail delivery on reservations. Other times, addresses are incorrectly logged in the voter registration database.

While it's difficult to tackle the first issue, we ask you and all the county election administrators to remind voters they *can* handle the second by using the My Voter Page on your website or contacting their local election office to verify their mailing address and other information.

We all have a responsibility to encourage and participate in a free and fair election system. The STRC thinks a concerted campaign to remind voters to verify their mailing address before absentee voting begins in early October for the 2020 general election will benefit all parties.

Secretary Stapleton, we appreciate your attention and that of the county election administrators to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jason Small, Chair

Rep. Rae Peppers, Vice Chair

cc: All county election administrators