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September 9, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to highlight the challenges Montana continues to face in the current census, and the need for additional enumerators to assist with Montana's non-response follow up operations. There is need across the entire state; however, the need is particularly acute on tribal lands and in our most rural counties. I urge you to quickly dedicate additional personnel to address this challenge.

Given the rural nature of Montana and the additional challenges brought about by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of Montanans may go uncounted and entire communities could be underrepresented at the federal level. A recent news report indicates that less than 25% of Montana's tribal population had been counted as of September 1. Additionally, there are many rural counties who have few, if any, enumerators presently working to complete the count. These areas are more difficult to count than most due to the vast landscapes, long driveways, and other terrain and weather challenges. We must ensure that those living in these areas are fully counted. Specifically, I am requesting that trained Census personnel from states which are nearing full enumeration be relocated to Montana as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator