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United States Senate

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February 28, 2020

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to share my concerns with implementation of the REAL ID Act, and its upcoming compliance deadline. While the State of Montana continues working to implement REAL ID in a timely fashion, large numbers of Montanans will not have REAL ID compliant identification by the October 2020 deadline. Therefore, I am asking for a delay in the deadline for Phases 3 and 4, while the State continues implementing REAL ID in compliance with federal law.

Without a delay, on October 1st, 2020, Montanans will no longer be able to use their state-issued non-REAL ID driver's license to enter secured federal government facilities or board airplanes, which would have a significant impact on business and travel in my state. For example, a vendor in Great Falls will no longer be able to access Malmstrom Air Force Base to drop off their deliveries without additional identification. Further, some veterans seeking care could face difficulties in entering a base to see their doctor.

Montana is making strides to comply with the REAL ID law and has made numerous security improvements for both physical cards and in the issuing process for driver's licenses. Montana driving records are accessible on the National Driver Registry, and the State has been working to inform the public of the October 1st deadline via mtrealid.gov.

By providing an emergency waiver for Montana, the enforcement of Phases 3 and 4 of REAL ID would only be a temporary pause while Montana makes an earnest effort to implement REAL ID. I ask that you grant an emergency waiver for the State of Montana for one year, as they are working in good faith to comply with the law. I look forward to continuing to work with you to protect Montanans' privacy and security.

Sincerely,

Steve Daines

United States Senator