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May 7, 2020

Mr. Rob Manfred
Commissioner
Major League Baseball
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Mr. Pat O'Connor
President and Chief Executive Officer
Minor League Baseball
9550 16th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Dear Commissioner Manfred and President O'Connor:


I am writing to you concerning ongoing discussions and negotiations taking place between Major League Baseball (MLB) and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) regarding a new Professional Baseball Agreement (PBA) for 2021 and beyond. As the COVID-19 pandemic has suspended both MLB and MiLB seasons for the time being and resulted in significant uncertainty and economic impact on clubs, cities, and communities across the country, I request that you come to an agreement to extend the current PBA through the 2022 season. This would allow both MLB and MiLB to better assess the impact of COVID-19 on professional baseball and our communities and identify any reforms that may be warranted to help baseball recover from this crisis.

As you know, professional baseball plays an important role as our national pastime and is an economic driver in many communities, both large and small. Minor League Baseball in particular has been an integral part of the communities in Montana for over seventy years. Generations of Montanans have witnessed future hall of famers such as George Brett, Trevor Hoffman, Bobby Cox, Ryne Sandberg, and Pedro Martinez play in the Treasure State and I hope that Montanans will continue to have the opportunity to see the next generation of baseball stars.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has placed live sports in the United States at all levels at a standstill. The full impacts of a delayed or suspended season are uncertain and extending the existing PBA would help provide all sides flexibility to develop plans for professional baseball to resume and recover as quickly as possible once the health crisis subsides. I urge MLB and MiLB to extend the existing PBA, maintain existing minor league clubs and affiliations, and negotiate in good faith while our nation works to re-open.

I strongly urge MLB and MiLB to continue supporting the long standing tradition of professional baseball in Montana and across the United States and I look forward to working with you to ensure that remains a reality.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator