



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Office of the Director  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

Thank you for your letter to the President about the efforts to complete the 2020 Census in Montana. I am pleased to respond on his behalf to give you an update on the U.S. Census Bureau's operations. So far, we have enumerated 85.3 percent of Montana's households, and we are doing whatever it takes to complete the work in your state.

We currently have 1,094 census takers actively working in Montana, and we are moving in more staff to Montana from other areas where the work is nearly complete, as you suggested. So far, 119 additional census takers have been assigned to work in Montana. We also hired 48 more locally over the last week, for a total of 167 additional staff. We will continue to add more, and we will keep you updated on that progress.

The Census Bureau worked directly with tribal governments to gain access to their lands, and we recently received the necessary approvals to conduct the Nonresponse Follow-up operation in the tribal areas in Montana. The work is now progressing quickly. So far, we have completed 33 percent of the required follow-up work on tribal lands in Montana. The following percentages of the non-response workload (mostly follow up with the households that have not responded on their own) in specific tribal areas have been completed to date:

- Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation: 46 percent;
- Crow Tribe of the Crow Reservation: 31 percent;
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation: 29 percent
- Fort Belknap Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation: 38 percent;
- Fort Peck Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation: 42 percent;
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation: 13 percent; and
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation: 40 percent.

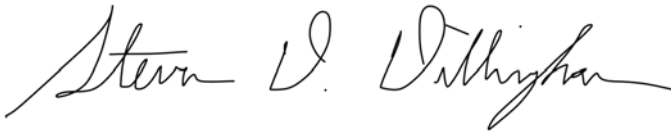
We will continue to do everything possible to ensure a complete and accurate count of Montana. Anything you can do in this final push to encourage your constituents to respond, if they have not already, would be invaluable, and when they respond, they can be removed from the nonresponse workload. Also, we ask that all Montanans and anyone across the nation to cooperate when a census taker knocks on the door.

The Honorable Steve Daines

2

Thank you for your strong support. We briefed your staff on September 14, and we would be pleased to brief you further on the progress in Montana. If you need any additional information, feel free to contact Chris Stanley, Chief, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at 301-763-6100 or [cao@census.gov](mailto:cao@census.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven D. Dillingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Steven D. Dillingham  
Director