

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 11, 2017

The Honorable Douglas Lamont  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Alan Mikkelsen  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Acting Assistant Secretary Lamont and Acting Commissioner Mikkelsen:

We write regarding the latest decision of the U.S. District Court of Montana (Court) to enjoin construction at the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) and direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to provide additional evidence of the benefits the LYIP would provide to impacted species prior to proceeding with construction. We urge ACE and BOR to continue to support this vital project and provide assurances to Congress and stakeholders that funding currently allocated for this project will not be transferred or reduced while ACE and BOR conduct further analyses.

This project is critical to close to four hundred farms and irrigates over 50,000 acres of cropland. That is why we also encourage you to address the concerns of the Court and conduct the necessary analyses in a timely manner, thereby ensuring that this essential source of water for farmers, ranchers, and communities throughout much of northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota is not unduly disrupted. Additionally, if the agencies have not already done so, we urge ACE and BOR to develop and implement an interim plan to manage the existing intake dam should the project continue to be enjoined.

As ACE and BOR move forward in addressing the issues detailed by the Court, we request ACE and BOR act in as expeditious a manner as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this critically important issues, and we look forward to your prompt response.

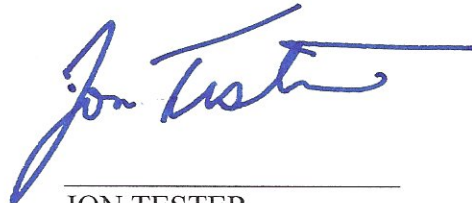
Sincerely,



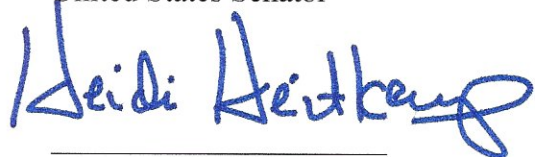
STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN  
United States Senator



JON TESTER  
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP  
United States Senator



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GREG GIANFORTE  
Member of Congress



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KEVIN CRAMER  
Member of Congress