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United States Senate

April 1, 2020

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

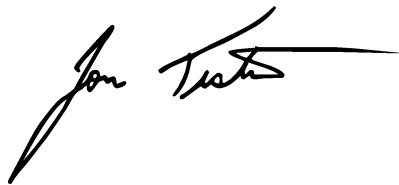
Dear Assistant Secretary Sweeney:

I'm writing you to ensure that the newly recognized Little Shell Chippewa Tribe of Montana receives COVID-19 relief funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). I worked with my colleagues to include \$453 million for the BIA in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act). This funding will be critical to ensuring that Tribes like the Little Shell Tribe can continue to carry out day-to-day responsibilities during this crisis.

Due to the timing of their federal recognition, the Little Shell Tribe was not included in the FY20 New Tribe funding line or Tribal Priority Allocations. However, Little Shell is eligible for these funds in FY21 and any newly appropriated funds in FY20. Therefore, Little Shell is eligible to receive CARES Act funding in the New Tribe funding line and the Tribal Priority Allocation for Tribal response and capacity building activities.

These funds will be essential to ensuring the Little Shell Tribe has the resources to continue providing services to Tribal members. I look forward to working with you to make sure that the Little Shell Tribe has the resources necessary to respond to COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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