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# United States Senate

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COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND  
FORESTRY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson:

Congratulations on your confirmation to be the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I would like to extend an invitation to visit Montana and learn about that State's challenges in obtaining affordable housing.

I have been impressed by your vision to provide a holistic approach to fighting poverty and creating stronger neighborhoods and am pleased that your life experiences allow you to serve as a role model for those struggling. As you begin the important task of leading the agency and fostering affordable housing opportunities, I request that you prioritize the streamlining of regulations and reduction of fraud, waste, and abuse. In October 2016, the HUD Office of Inspector General issued a report detailing that the agency spent \$2.23 billion in improper payments to banks. Such instances represent a divergence of funds that could have otherwise assisted those in need. Such instances demonstrate a lack of programmatic integrity necessary to serve the very individuals who the agency's programs were intended to assist.

In addition, some Montana employers have indicated that affordable housing issues have constrained the State's workforce by making it difficult for some businesses to attract and retain potential employees. I therefore encourage you to determine the causes of the affordable housing shortage in Montana and provide my office with recommendations for ways to increase workforce housing.

Furthermore, I urge you to work with Indian tribes to encourage homeownership in Indian Country and improve housing conditions in those communities.

I look forward to working closely with you as a member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee to reduce regulatory burdens on those seeking housing, exercise good stewardship over taxpayer resources, and increase workforce housing, as well as hosting you in Montana.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator