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United States Senate

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February 2, 2017

The Honorable Dan Coats
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Senator Coats:

Congratulations on being nominated as the next Director for National Intelligence (DNI). Your prior service on the Senate Intelligence Committee, as a former U.S. Ambassador, and as a U.S. Army veteran will serve you well as you lead a diverse group of intelligence agencies and organizations to protect our nation.

The United States must remain vigilant against a wide range of threats to include Islamic extremism, an unpredictable North Korean regime, Russian and Chinese assertiveness in their perceived spheres of influence, and malicious cyber activity. There is no shortage of issues that the intelligence community (IC) must collect against and provide timely and insightful analysis. I am confident that you will lead the IC to further integrate intelligence collection and analysis, ensure responsible and secure information sharing between agencies, and promote a high-skilled and agile workforce.

I am also confident that you will provide objective and sound intelligence advice if confirmed as DNI and that you will carefully consider how to both ensure our national security and privacy of Americans. We must not compromise Americans' 4th Amendment rights.

I would like to invite you to join me as a keynote speaker at the Montana High Tech Jobs Summit later this year. The Summit will take place from October 8-9, 2017 in Missoula, Montana at the University of Montana. It will provide you an opportunity to speak with the next generation of the best and brightest computer scientists. Their skills are increasingly critical in defending our cyberspace and supporting other IC activities.

Congratulations again on your nomination, and I look forward to continuing to dialogue with you and your administration on issues related to intelligence and national security.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator