

United States Senate

February 16, 2017

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

The Honorable John Michael “Mick” Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

Congratulations on your confirmation to be the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As you take on this critical role, I am pleased that you share Montanans’ commonsense support for balancing the budget and restoring fiscal responsibility. I would also like to extend a formal invitation to visit Montana to see firsthand our thriving business community and how it can greatly benefit from regulatory relief.

I appreciate your support of my Balanced Budget Accountability Act. Your positive recommendation demonstrates your firm commitment to fiscal responsibility and your understanding of what is necessary in order to security our nation’s financial future. It is unacceptable that the federal government has balanced its budget only five times in the past five decades—resulting in a federal debt that is approaching an incomprehensible \$20 trillion. As you help craft the President’s budget request this year and beyond, I urge you to implement a fiscally responsible, priority-based budgeting system that puts our country on the path toward a balanced budget within ten years.

Further, according to the Small Business Administration, over 99 percent of businesses in Montana are small businesses, employing 66 percent of the state’s workforce. As you lead OMB, I encourage you to remember that small businesses are disproportionately harmed by regulations due to their smaller workforce. I ask that you utilize the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB to reduce regulatory burdens on small businesses and other job creators, including our nation’s energy sector.

Finally, I encourage you to take a close look at reinstating and strengthening the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), which was previously established in 2002. PART reviews can be instrumental in protecting taxpayers’ interests by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of public programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I believe these reviews can meaningfully enhance the Committee’s ability to prioritize funding to effective programs and exercise oversight where necessary.

I look forward to working closely with you to balance the budget, reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses, and foster sustained job and economic growth, as well as hosting you in Montana.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator