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August 6, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

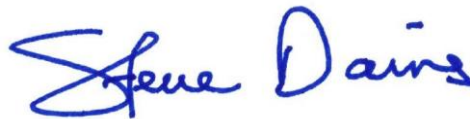
I write to you concerning the current COVID-19 pandemic and the National Guard's mission to support the national emergency declaration. I would like to commend your efforts to combat this pandemic and write to ask for your consideration for Montana's Title 32 National Guard operations to be fully covered by the federal government as Montana continues to see an increase of coronavirus cases.

As you are aware, COVID-19 is an ongoing pandemic that has the ability to spread rapidly with a concerning mortality rate. Day by day, increasing numbers of our National Guard are asked to support both Montana's and our national effort to address this crisis. As of today, Montana has 4,602 confirmed cases, 65 deaths, 87 active hospitalizations, and 2,964 individuals have recovered, with 185,815 tests have been conducted. Many of our guardsmen and women have been asked to assist these efforts from the distribution of essential supplies to checking the temperatures of visitors to the Treasure State.

Following the recent decision to reduce the federal cost-share of ongoing National Guard operations, states will soon be required to cover 25 percent of the costs associated with countering the virus. During this time of uncertainty, it is important that the men and women of the National Guard have access to the resources they need to combat COVID-19. With that in mind, I strongly urge you to support the Montana National Guard and extend Title 32 authorization to maintain full reimbursement for its ongoing efforts to fight this pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you and your administration to ensure our guardsmen and women in Montana and across the country have the resources they need during this emergency.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator