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May 25, 2021

Secretary Marty Walsh
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh:

I write to you concerning the status of the Anaconda and Trapper Creek Job Corps in Montana. I ask that you promptly reopen these Job Corps sites in Montana to in-person instruction with appropriate safety protocols to allow more students on campus so they can get the best education and training possible.

As you are aware, the current guidance for the Job Corps does not allow new students to attend in person on campus, and students are instead required to attend virtually. Job Corps provides valuable educational and vocational training in skilled trades to young people across Montana, but these jobs require hands on education and getting back on campus to be truly effective. As vaccines are readily available in Montana and across the country, we should be more than capable of getting these students back into classrooms.

Following President Biden lifting the mask mandate in federal buildings, I see no reason to endanger these student's education with a one size fits all policy. In Montana our infection rates are down and the state is open. It is imperative Job Corps sites in Montana are reopened to in-person instruction without further delay so kids can get back into the classrooms to ensure they can fully benefit from the excellent education the Job Corps has to offer.

Thank you for your consideration and your swift response to this request. I look forward to working with you to help get people back to work and increase good high paying jobs in Montana.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator