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United States Senate

August 12, 2020

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Assistant Secretary Sweeney and Director Wray:

I write today with my urgent concerns regarding the ongoing public safety crisis on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Over the past few months, multiple Northern Cheyenne Tribal members have been found dead on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, including Christy Woodenthigh, Kymani Littlebird, and Lonnie Flatness. My office has been in regular contact with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in hope of bringing more resources and greater transparency to these tragedies. It is clear that more attention and resources are necessary. I respectfully request your personal attention to these matters.

I have heard from Northern Cheyenne Tribal leadership and multiple family members regarding these recent deaths. The loss of these individuals has rippled through the community as has alarm at the growing number of cases. Tribal leadership and family members of the deceased have raised consistent concerns about the lack of communication from both the BIA and FBI. I urge you to work with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to ensure family and community members continue to receive regular updates on these investigations.

The U.S. Government has trust and treaty responsibilities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. I urge you to uphold these responsibilities, focus all possible resources on these cases, and work with Tribal leadership to improve public safety on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. I appreciate your personal attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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