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August 12, 2020

The Honorable William Barr  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Attorney General Barr and Secretary Bernhardt:

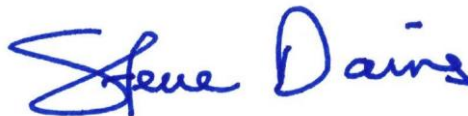
I write to you concerning the current Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis we are facing in Montana. I urge you to provide additional resources to investigate recent murders and major crimes on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and assist the Tribe in any way they need to protect their people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is among the leading causes of death for American Indian and Alaska Native tribal members. Over time, this crisis has become more widespread and is taking the lives of increasing numbers of tribal members. Tragically, we lost the life of Cory Blackwolf yesterday. Cory was a young Northern Cheyenne man whose gruesome killing and kidnapping were displayed on a Facebook video for hours before eventually being taken down. Cory was murdered in broad daylight, and his body was taken by his killers and put into a vehicle that quickly sped away. These heinous acts and injustices cannot continue to happen and it is imperative that additional resources are promptly made available and you actively coordinate with the Tribe to address this crisis.

Following President Trump's creation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force, Operation Lady Justice, we saw swift action in addressing a case in the Crow Reservation. The Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, and local law enforcement must now work together to find a reasonable solution to address the increase in violence on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Please review the attached letter from the President of Northern Cheyenne and respond to their concerns in a timely manner.

Thank you for your efforts in this space and your swift response to this request. I look forward to working with you to find an immediate and effective solution to protect Indian Country. We cannot afford to lose another innocent life.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator