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# United States Senate

March 19, 2014

Jim Rokosch  
Commissioner  
Ravalli County  
215 S 4th St Ste A  
Hamilton, MT 59840-2703

RECEIVED  
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Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Jim,

I am writing to share my latest efforts to protect the privacy of law-abiding Montanans. In addition to reaffirming my long-standing opposition to REAL ID and working to end the National Security Agency's data collection programs, I've been fighting for our basic right to privacy.

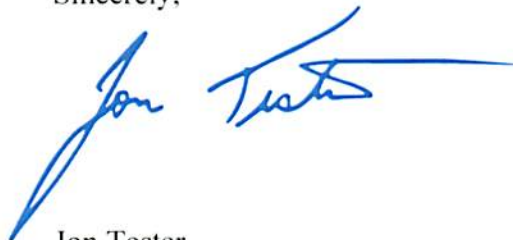
I recently told the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that its proposal for a national license plate database is unacceptable and cannot be implemented. This database would have collected information from automated license-plate readers and manual input by police officers and stored it in a federal database. DHS has withdrawn this proposal, but I am working to make sure they never again try to implement such a misguided idea.

I also succeeded in persuading the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to better protect the privacy of our veterans by issuing new, more secure identification cards. The current VA-issued ID cards can accidentally reveal veterans' Social Security numbers. The VA will immediately issue a more secure card to newly enrolled veterans and will replace cards for all veterans beginning in April. Our veterans have made great sacrifices to protect us, the least we can do is protect their personal information.

These are just a few of the many steps I've taken to stand up for Montanans' privacy. But there is more to do. For example, over 90 percent of the new vehicles sold in the U.S. carry event data recorders, or "black boxes." These devices record information like GPS location and whether you fasten your seat belt. Last month, I introduced the Driver Privacy Act, which would make this information the property of the car's owner and prevent it from being shared without a warrant. This bipartisan bill will ensure that privacy laws keep pace with advances in technology.

I'll keep working hard to protect our vital constitutional rights from any federal overreach. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator