

JON TESTER
MONTANA

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

SENATE HART BUILDING
SUITE 311
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2644
INTERNET:
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

October 17, 2017

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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

Dear Jim,

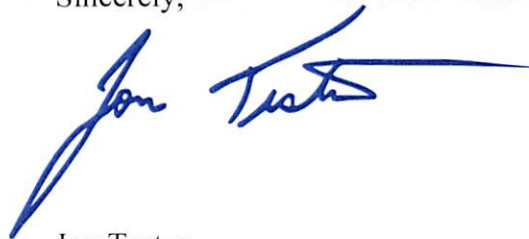
Thank you for contacting me about the Energy Star program and other energy efficient programs in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. I share your concerns.

The Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 eliminates funding for all of these initiatives. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance programs provide vital heating and weatherization support to Montana's low-income families. We all know how cold our winters get, and no family should have to choose between turning on the heat and putting food on the table. That's why, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am fighting to make sure these initiatives receive the funding they need to keep folks warm.

I also appreciate your support for Energy Star, a joint program between the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency which certifies energy-efficient appliances and buildings. Energy Star is designed to incentivize energy efficiency in the marketplace, and has saved consumers \$362 billion in utility payments over the last 25 years. Initiatives like these work to lower energy costs, reduce our impact on the climate, and keep jobs in in Montana.

I believe we need to cut spending, reduce our debt, and make responsible fiscal decisions. But this budget is not the answer. As the Senate considers appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2018, I will be sure to keep your views in mind. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator

BOZEMAN
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE
(406) 723-3277

GLENDIVE
(406) 365-2391

GREAT FALLS
(406) 452-9585

HELENA
(406) 449-5401

KALISPELL
(406) 257-3360

BILLINGS
(406) 252-0550

MISSOULA
(406) 728-3003