

**Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines-Northwest Area Foundation Event message
Missoula, MT
November 10, 2017**

Greetings from the U-S Senate.

I want to thank the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines and the Northwest Area Foundation for bringing us all together.

There is limitless potential in Indian Country. To fully tap into that potential, we must promote policies that improve business opportunities that create good jobs and that help local economies take an important step forward.

As a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, my responsibility is to empower tribal governments and ensure tribes have access to the tools needed to help increase investments and allow Indian-owned businesses to thrive.

That's why I'm sponsoring legislation to create new business incubators in Indian Country.

These incubators will provide Native American entrepreneurs with a well-connected workspace where they can develop a business plan, secure capital, and network with other professionals.

I will also continue to support the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which promotes and invests critical resources to help meet the business needs of underserved areas.

This Fund has helped revitalize Main Streets and storefronts across Indian Country and it is critically important that these investments continue to help create new opportunities for Native American entrepreneurs.

To help create a stronger economy, we also need stronger K-12 education and Tribal Colleges and Universities, stronger apprenticeships and job training initiatives, and better access to broadband and 21st century infrastructure.

By taking these steps together, we can improve economic stability in every corner of Indian Country.

Economic stability increases certainty for businesses, it strengthens self-governance, and it promotes tribal sovereignty.

Again, I want to thank you for convening this important event.

Please know that my door is always open to you.

Keep up the great work and stay in touch.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Tester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Tester
United States Senator