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The Honorable Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester,

May I first thank you for your advocacy and proactive stand on addressing the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic that is devastating Indian Country.

As a former Chairman of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, a former Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Superintendent for the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and now a senior member of the Global Indigenous Council (GIC) leadership and an elder of the Hopi Bear Clan, I respectfully appeal to you to introduce effective MMIW legislation based upon the *Savanna's Act* amendments proposed by the GIC, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, and Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

The scale of this tragedy is such that we cannot wait for political differences to be resolved among our advocates and allies on Capitol Hill. The consequence of every delay is more victims and more families and communities devastated. Yet, there is no legislation signed into law to address this accelerating tragedy. Legislation based upon the proposed amendments to *Savanna's Act*, wherein the status-quo of the dysfunctional jurisdictional scheme would be ended by the establishment of an interagency law enforcement body in each BIA region to rapidly respond to cases; the foundation of Tribal Liaison Offices grounded in cultural competency to bridge the divide between law enforcement and tribal communities, and to provide support to victims' families and culturally sensitive health care to survivors; and effective cold case protocols, would do more to address this tragedy than any bill yet introduced. It is also imperative that the "wild west" nature of fossil-fuel industry "man camps" be addressed in this legislation, as no bill introduced to date touches upon this major cause of sexual violence and victimization of tribal women and minors.

Kwak'wha! Pailolmani!

Benjamin H. Nuvamsa,
President/CEO - KIVA Institute, LLC