



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

November 07, 2013

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter of August 27, 2013, regarding my trip to North Dakota. It was extremely valuable for me to see first-hand the unique challenges that exist in the State. I am pleased to provide you with an update on the Federal efforts that have been initiated in response to the concerns that are highlighted in your letter. Since my visit in July, the following activities have begun:

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has assigned a special agent to the local DEA office in Bismarck. This agent recently reported for duty and has begun working with partners in the region.
- Later this month, Williams County will be officially designated as part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program.
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is coordinating with the White House Domestic Policy Council to identify the Federal resources that can be directed to the region.

I applaud the efforts that have been made by North Dakota law enforcement agencies, tribes, health care professionals, and educators to address the public health and criminal justice issues in the Bakken region. I agree that while the challenges are vast, progress can be achieved through collaborative efforts with state and local partners.

Again, thank you for writing to me about this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 395-6700 or have your staff contact Kimberley Alton, ONDCP's Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, at (202) 395-6602 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Gil Kerlikowske".

R. Gil Kerlikowske
Director