

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 17, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St, NW, Room 5665  
Washington, DC 20240

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Attorney General Lynch, Secretary Jewell, and Lieutenant General Semonite:

We are writing to request additional support from the Department of Justice, Department of Interior, and the Army Corps of Engineers for state and local law enforcement in North Dakota. With increased protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline, it is essential that law enforcement has the resources they need to ensure public safety.

Over the past several months, the increased protest activity in Morton County has sparked growing concern over the well-being of the community. While we recognize Americans' right to protest, we believe everyone also has a responsibility to follow the law. Construction workers and local residents have expressed concern for their personal safety. Furthermore, there have been reports of theft and damage to personal property. Increased support for law enforcement is necessary to ensure the protests do not escalate to a situation in which lives are in serious danger.

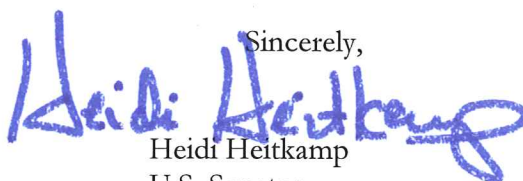
To address this precipitous increase in activity, our state and local governments have spent a considerable amount to keep the communities safe. Our county sheriffs have spent \$1.8 million; our state law enforcement has spent \$3.75 million. Going forward, it is estimated that the state will spend between \$750,000 and \$1 million every week on law enforcement capabilities. It is our concern that this level of funding is not sustainable for our state to maintain.

With this in mind, we urge the Administration to provide additional support for our law enforcement so they can continue to ensure the safety of all involved in the protests. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator



Heidi Heitkamp  
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Congressman