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# United States Senate

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

I write today to respectfully urge you to sustain the State Department's Summer Work Travel (SWT) initiative, a vital component of the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. I stand with Montanans who have told me this initiative helps their businesses and strengthens our economy.

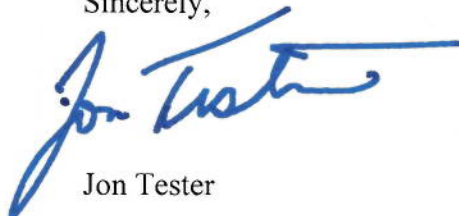
The SWT program allows students who are enrolled full-time in a university or college outside the U.S. the opportunity to live and work in seasonal or temporary jobs during the summer. In 2016, there were over 2,700 J-1 Visa participants in Montana, and over 1,900 of those were SWT program participants.

I have heard from a number of business leaders in Montana who are deeply concerned that the Administration is proposing to eliminate the SWT initiative. I believe this would be a mistake and would undermine small businesses in Montana.

Not only would ending this initiative take away a tremendous cultural benefit to our communities, it would have a devastating economic impact on Montana's seasonal businesses. Many local businesses in Montana could not operate without the SWT initiative. Students in the SWT initiative allow Montana companies that rely on seasonal business to stay open during times when American students are not available for seasonal work. The work provided by these students also allows businesses to employ U.S. citizens earlier and later each season. The local businesses, American employees, and members of the local communities all greatly benefit from the SWT program.

I hope that as the administration reviews the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, you will consult with business leaders utilizing the SWT program across the country and will continue to support this valuable program.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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