

Questions from Senator Daines (MT)

1. Congress recently enacted legislation that would require small businesses to disclose information to the U.S. government about their beneficial ownership. The legislation, included in the National Defense Authorization Act, provides new authority to the Treasury Department to assist law enforcement with preventing criminal activity. I worry that this new authority could also unintentionally subject small businesses to new compliance costs and privacy issues.
 - a. Will you commit to working with small businesses, and other stakeholders, to address their concerns as the requirements for disclosure of beneficial ownership information go into effect?

Answer: I agree on the need for federal banking agencies, including but not limited to FinCEN, to consult with the small business community when promulgating regulations, including on the promulgation of rules and guidance to implement the beneficial ownership reporting requirements. If confirmed, I will ensure that appropriate consultation occurs.

2. In Montana, we have tribal and rural populations across the state that feel neglected by their federal government, which tends to focus on the loudest voices in big cities.
 - a. What will you do to make sure that tribal and rural interests in Montana and across America have their voices heard and reflected in Treasury's policies?

Answer: If confirmed, I will focus closely on ensuring that Treasury activities are designed and performed in ways that attend to rural and tribal communities, including by ensuring that appropriate communication and resources are made available through our recovery efforts. Tribal Consultations are conducted through the Office of Economic Policy and the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee and advise the Secretary on matters related to taxation and dispensing technical assistance to Native American financial institutions officers. As Secretary, if confirmed, I will ensure that these areas act in concert and are more impactful. I will also work to remove obstacles and work with Congress on potential solutions to increase impact efficiency because I recognize that this crisis has hit tribal communities particularly hard and we have to ensure that they are getting the assistance that they need.

3. China is rapidly innovating in the digital asset and financial technology space, beginning a pilot of a central bank digital currency in late 2020.
 - a. What are your plans to ensure the United States remains a cutting-edge leader in global financial services?
 - b. What are some concrete steps you plan to take to promote responsible innovation at the Treasury, specifically at FinCEN, OFAC and the OCC?

Answer: I believe the United States must be a leader in the digital asset and financial technology areas. This requires us to develop a regulatory framework that fosters innovation and promising new technologies while addressing legitimate concerns about the use of such technologies to finance terrorism and engage in other malign activities that threaten U.S. national security and pose risks to the financial system. I look forward to working with other federal banking and securities agencies, the Federal Reserve, and Congress in developing and implementing such a framework.