

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

January 7, 2025

Mr. Elon Musk and Mr. Vivek Ramaswamy
Co-Chairmen
Department of Government Efficiency

Dear Mr. Musk and Mr. Ramaswamy,

I write today to congratulate you on your positions as co-chairmen of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and to thank you for your willingness to right the ship of the massive federal bureaucracy. In your new roles, you face an enormous challenge in reducing spending that has left us more than \$36 trillion in debt, eliminating the unnecessary bloat of the administrative state, and cutting regulations that hold back American innovators, businesses, and workers.

In 2020, Montana voters overwhelmingly responded to the two primary propositions of my campaign for governor: to create more good-paying jobs and to protect the Montana way of life. As a businessman and entrepreneur, I know that cutting unnecessary, burdensome regulations is central to opening the doors of greater opportunity for our citizens to achieve the American dream.

With my first executive order and on my second day in office, I launched our Red Tape Relief Task Force, with Lt. Governor Kristen Juras leading the charge. The lieutenant governor continues to leave no stone left unturned, evaluating every program, board, commission, and line of code. Working with legislators, business owners, ag producers, and other hardworking Montanans, we rolled back, reformed, and repealed one-fifth of regulations on the books and passed more than one hundred seventy red tape relief bills into law to eliminate unnecessary, burdensome rules holding back hardworking Montanans and businesses.

Reducing red tape was not something new to me when I became governor. When I served in Congress, I led the Republican Study Committee's Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform (GEAR) Task Force. With the support of now-Speaker Mike Johnson, our Task Force identified more than 100 common sense solutions to reform government power structure, practices, and personnel policies. The actionable, nonpartisan plan provided a roadmap for reclaiming government from unelected bureaucrats, making it more efficient and accountable to taxpayers, and further develop dedicated, federal workers to deliver better results for the American people.

To us, this just seemed like common sense, and outside of Washington, D.C., it is. Common sense, however, is not so common in Washington, D.C. where entrenched bureaucrats and well-heeled lobbyists will go to great lengths to protect their slice of the pie.

As a result of our successful efforts, we're seeing meaningful results in Montana. Thanks to our policies, more Montanans are working now than ever before, wages in Montana have grown at the second fastest rate in the country, and we've had record job and business creation. We've delivered historic pro-family, pro-jobs tax cuts, with more on the way. We've balanced our budgets, held state spending under inflation, and paid off the state's debt.

None of our success, however, would be possible without cutting red tape and being strong guardians of taxpayer resources.

Admittedly, we are not alone in Montana with our success in cutting unnecessary, burdensome regulations and being good stewards of taxpayer resources. Republican governors across the country are, and have been, delivering similar results. It's likely one reason Americans are fleeing blue states – with their high taxes, gluttonous spending, and hyper-regulation – in droves for our nation's red states.

As you begin this challenging process to reduce the administrative state, get spending, deficits, and the national debt under control, and ultimately unleash American opportunity, know that my administration and I stand ready to work with you and your team. I would be grateful to host you in Montana to discuss areas of collaboration at your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you. I wish you great success. My door is always open.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana