

It is a smell that will stay with me forever, the smell of burned flesh, one person doing this to another, which really to me highlighted and has continued to highlight the major issues that you are trying to deal with her. I commend you for your efforts and I want to help in every way that I can and work with you, Mr. Chairman. So thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Barrasso, thank you very much. Let me call on Senator Tester.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JON TESTER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA**

Senator TESTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too want to echo the comments of Senator Barrasso in thanking you for bringing forward this draft legislation. I do think it is very timely. To be honest with you, it should probably have been addressed a while back. The Department of Justice, I don't think, has done what is necessary.

This isn't the time to point fingers, it is the time to talk about proper staffing, proper infrastructure, proper jurisdiction. And it is a time to work together with the Department of Justice. Hopefully they understand there is a problem here, and hopefully through bills like this one, if we can get it through the process, we can solve the problems that revolve around crime in Indian Country. Because quite honestly, at this point in time, it is a tragedy.

There's barely a week that goes by that there is not a problem. I think a lot of it has to do with staffing and consequences, once a person is picked up, how they are handled and the ability of the courts to handle people and have a place to put them once they are found guilty.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL K. AKAKA,
U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII**

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Akaka?

Senator AKAKA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to add my welcome to the tribal leaders as well as the national Indian Country leaders who are here in the room today, and to urge you, as the Chairman has, to continue to be part of the effort to help Indian Country.

One that is pending, and we urge you to also lobby on the other side of the Hill on the Indian Health bill. We really need to pass that. Now here, again, I want to commend the leadership of our Chairman Dorgan for what he has done in drafting this Indian Country bill on law and order, which is really needed. So the Committee intends to hear as much as we can from you and to finally make a decision.

Again, I want to urge this Committee and the leadership of our Chairman to move this as quickly as we can. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Akaka, thank you very much. Senator Cantwell?