October 23, 2019

[ADDRESS]

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[As your constituent, I am OR I am writing on behalf of the ORGANIZATION NAME, and our nationwide network of advocates], asking you to **cosponsor S.1657, the TICK Act**. The TICK Act stands for “Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout Act”. This important bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tina Smith (D-MN), would significantly improve coordination at the federal level and provide communities and states with resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Specifically, this legislation would:

(1) Establish an Office of Oversight and Coordination at HHS,to develop a National Strategy to expand research and improve testing and treatment affordability to fight tick-borne diseases;

(2)Reauthorize $10 million per year over the next five years for Regional Centers of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease. These Centers collaborate with academia and public health agencies for surveillance, prevention, outbreak response;

(3) Authorize $20 million per year over the next five years in CDC Grants to States and communities across the country to raise awareness about Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, support early detection and diagnosis, and improve treatment.

Your support of S.1657, the TICK Act, is urgently needed. The overall number of Americans infected by Lyme and tick-borne diseases is rising and there is no end in sight. Last year, there were 450,000 cases of Lyme, a 1,400 percent increase from 2003.

[Please **WRITE YOUR OWN STORY HERE** or **DELETE**. ***For example***: I got Lyme disease in 2015, while hiking on my favorite trail in... The disease has been devastating, and I am still fighting it everyday].

Lyme disease costs our nation more than $75 billion per year, including direct medical costs and indirect costs such as loss of work. As your constituent, I urge you to join the effort to combat Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by co-sponsoring S.1657, TICK Act, and become an advocate for this urgently needed, and long overdue, legislation.

Sincerely,