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"Montana's Economic Development", Bozeman Chamber of Commerce

Max S. Baucus

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MAX BAUCUS

BEFORE THE BOZEMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MARCH 25, 1983

MONTANA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

It is a real pleasure to be here with Ted, George, and other members of their administration.

Ted, I commend you for your "Capitol for a Day" program. I spend a lot more time in Washington than I would like. And, I'm fully aware of how out of touch you can get when you spend all your time in a capitol.

I've often argued that Congress would be much more effective if we were able to spend more time at home. You've done a very effective job of bringing government closer to the people of Bozeman -- and the people of Montana.

"Build Montana"

I also would like to say a few words about the "Build Montana" program you've initiated Ted.

Build Montana contains tools that will put us back on the road to economic recovery. You and your administration have done an excellent analysis of the state's economic problems. And you've used that analysis to put forward some very sound proposals.
Our state and our nation face serious economic problems. These are not Democratic or Republican problems. They hurt us all.

And Democrats or Republicans alone cannot restore prosperity. All of us have to work together.

Democrats, Republicans, business, labor and government all must work hand in hand to map out the future of our state. I intend to help in that process. And I know Ted and his administration are committed to that goal, too.

Build Montana can create a climate in which we Montanans seriously begin that task. It can help us discuss our goals for the state. It can help us decide how to achieve those goals.

Federal Policies

We must get our own house in order. But that's not the only key to economic growth.

Unfortunately, Montana is not an island. What goes on in Washington, on Wall Street and in capitals around the world also affects us.

It used to be that Montana's Senators and Congressmen wanted to be on the committees that handle agriculture, energy and
MINING ISSUES. No longer is that true.

Today taxes, international trade policies, environmental regulations and a host of other issues affect Montanans. For example, this past week I worked on the Social Security reform package.

One amendment I offered will keep $5.4 million in the hands of Montana small businesses. That's money that will stay in Montana and be used by Montanans to make our state more prosperous.

I was able to get this amendment passed because I serve on the Finance Committee.

Pat Williams' work on the House Budget Committee is just as important. He can help reduce the budget deficit -- and keep interest rates down.

The national economy affects us. I intend to work to make sure the congressional delegation is a bridge between build Montana and what goes on in Congress.

In my view, we must achieve five objectives to ensure prosperity:

- Reduce interest rates;
- Increase the amount of investment money available to small businesses;
- Increase opportunities to export Montana's farm products and timber;
- Eliminate federal policies that put a damper on economic recovery in the farm economy and timber industry;
- Emphasize training and re-training American workers and development of innovative technology.

Over the next few months, I intend to announce concrete steps to achieve these specific objectives.

Conclusion

This is by no means an exhaustive list of what we need to do.

But it is an agenda that takes us in the right direction. And an agenda that all of us can pursue together.

Montana is full of rich natural resources, creative minds and strong hands. If we look forward and work together, we can move toward a future that will make us both prosperous and proud.

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