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Democratic Steak Fry

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Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

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MONTH/YEAR of Records*: October-1983
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(1) Subject*: Federal Issues
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(2) Subject* Democratic Steak Fry

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REMARKS OF SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
BEFORE THE
DEMOCRATIC STEAK FRY
BILLINGS, MONTANA
OCTOBER 8, 1983

It's great to be here with you at this gathering of Montanans and Democrats.

I know all of us here are proud to be both, and we have a right to be.

But being a Montanan and a Democrat does not mean anything if we are not willing to stand up for the way of life and the principles we believe in.

WESTERN ISSUES

Never before have the interests of Montana and the West been under greater attack in Congress.

Eastern and Midwestern interests are desperately trying to make a power grab for federal dollars -- and we in the West are the potential victims.

- They're trying to limit our ability to impose a severance tax.
- They're trying to rewrite federal formulas to penalize states with rich natural resources.
- They're trying to excessively tax Western consumers to pay for the pollution of Eastern and Midwestern utilities.
They're trying to rewrite estate tax laws to penalize Western landowners.

They're trying to raise revenues by hurting the timber industry -- an industry that's nearly been devastated by the recession.

I am spending an ever increasing part of my time fighting these Eastern and Midwestern proposals.

These are not partisan issues, but they are critical.

They threaten our state's financial well-being and indeed its sovereignty.

That's why it's essential that all of us, as Montanans, remain vigilant, speak out boldly and fight hard.

Democratic Issues

These serious threats bind us together as Westerners. But we must not forget the issues that bind us together as Democrats.

The real differences between the two parties are growing more apparent every day.

The Democratic Party stands for peace and arms control.

We are the party that opposes the MX and the militarization of Central America.

We are the party that stands for full rights for women and
The Equal Rights Amendment.

We are the party that is not satisfied with token gestures.

We are the party that argues for fairness in economic policies.

We are the party that opposes balancing the budget on the backs of working men and women.

We are the party that stands up for our senior citizens.

We are the party that opposed the gutting of Social Security and Medicare.

We are the party that advocates strong environmental laws.

And we are the party that opposes recklessness -- in our coal leasing policies and in the conduct of our Interior Secretary.

Conclusion

These are the issues that bind us together as Democrats.

And they are the basis upon which we can proudly go forward into the 1984 elections.

In my previous efforts, you've been there for me, doing all
THE ESSENTIAL WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. I AM COUNTING ON THAT HELP AND SUPPORT ONCE AGAIN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR WORKING TOGETHER TO ARTICULATE WHAT WE STAND FOR -- AS MONTANANS AND AS DEMOCRATS.

THANK YOU.