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Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

Max S. Baucus

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(2) Subject* Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

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* "required information"
Good afternoon. I am happy to be here today in Missoula with friends from the University of Montana.

We don't get good news from Washington very often these days. But today I've come home from Washington with some very good news! Congress has voted to appropriate $5 million to establish the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation.

Congress has a "two-step" procedure to allocate federal funds. In September, the Senate agreed to my amendment to authorize this expenditure to endow the Foundation. Shortly thereafter, my amendment to appropriate those funds was also passed by the Senate. The authorization bill has been signed into law, and the Labor-Health and Human Services bill, containing the actual money, is on the President's desk awaiting signature.

I want to emphasize that this has been quite a team effort. Senator Melcher joined me on the Senate side, and Congressman Pat Williams took on the task of persuading his House colleagues to accept these amendments. Many of Mike Mansfield's admirers and former colleagues in the Congress helped out too, including Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, Minority Leader Robert Byrd, House Speaker Tip O'Neill, Senator Inouye, the late Senator Scoop Jackson, and many others.
We also had a lot of help from Neil Bucklew, the President of the University of Montana, and his able assistant Dan Smith.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation has been created to support two important organizations: the Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana.

Together, these two centers will honor the career of Mike Mansfield, the longest-serving Majority Leader in the history of the United States Senate. Currently the American Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield is truly an American statesman and a world leader.
The Centers also honor the contributions of Mike's wife, Maureen Mansfield. As Mike said upon his retirement from the Senate, "My conclusion has been reached in this instance with my wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield, who has been with me through all these years and whose sensitive counsel, deep understanding, and great love have been so much a part of whatever may be the sum of my contribution."

The Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs, to be constructed at Flathead Lake in northwestern Montana, will bring leaders in business, government, and cultural affairs from nations of the Pacific to participate in conferences and seminars on the developing economic and cultural ties in this region. We expect that the Center will host more than 60 such meetings each year on subjects ranging from agricultural trade to educational exchange programs.

The Center's progress is keyed to the unparalleled growth which has characterized trade in the Pacific Basin during the past two decades. This growth is expected to continue into the twenty-first century. The Center will work to foster economic growth through trade, and will also be a leader in improving international understanding and in eliminating cultural barriers which have impeded exchanges across the Pacific.
In the United States Senate, I have been working hard to increase our trade abroad, especially in Montana products like beef and wheat. A relatively small investment in developing our relations with Asian nations and our understanding of their people will go a long way.
The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana will conduct academic programs related to Pacific area studies and ethics in public affairs. The university programs will open new opportunities for research and study, and attract leaders from academic and public life.

These two centers will sponsor cooperative programs designed to build upon their complementary relationships, such as hosting major conferences on Pacific area political, cultural, and trade relations.

The State of Montana has appropriated $1 million to the Mansfield Foundation, which will coordinate fundraising activities for these two Centers. This amendment appropriates an additional $5 million, as a one-time appropriation to help establish the Centers.

The Foundation will seek additional funds from individual donors, and we expect substantial donations from Japanese and other Pacific sources once Ambassador Mansfield retires from his post in Japan.

I believe it is fitting and proper that the United States should honor Mike Mansfield in this way, and I am proud to have been a part of this effort. These two Centers will honor his career by supporting and continuing his lifelong efforts to achieve close relations with Pacific nations in every sense.