Billings Human Rights Conference

Max S. Baucus

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Thank you, Sherry. I appreciate your kind remarks. And I appreciate the great job you’ve done on behalf of our state.

In the past year or two, it’s been pretty easy for people to get the wrong impression of Montana. It is safe to say we haven’t had the best publicity. But it is good to know that we have someone on the front lines as thoughtful, tough and hard working as Sherry Matteucci. She is an asset to her job and to our state.

Today’s headlines don’t explain that we have people across the state who are working hard to ensure that
hatred has no place in Montana -- the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, the Montana Human Rights Network, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and folks like you here today.

In fact, we have a rich history of tolerance for diversity in our state. It was our own majority leader in the Senate, Mike Mansfield, who ushered through Congress the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

When speaking about the task of passing that historic legislation, he said: "What we do here in Congress will not, of itself, correct these faults, but we can and must join the wisdom -- the collective wisdom of this body -- to the efforts of the others in this Nation to
face up to them for what they are -- a serious erosion of the fundamental rock upon which the unity of the Nation stands."

I am proud of Mike Mansfield and the work he did on the Civil Rights Act. I am also very proud of people like you who will stand up for what is right.

It is my honor to introduce a man who has been on the cutting edge of juvenile and adult corrections programs. He has written two books and over a dozen articles. He has been honored with several awards. And he was selected in his home state of Oregon to receive the Governor’s Award of Excellence.
Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to introduce to you, the Director of the Deschutes County Community Justice in Bend, Oregon -- Dennis Maloney.