6-15-1998

"The Budget and Environmental Protection"

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

June-1998

The Budget and Environmental Protection

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

06/15/1998
The environmental budget debate is about more than just money. We also must guard against "riders" that would weaken protection of public health and the environment.

It's happened before. In 1995, the Republicans loaded more than a dozen riders onto the appropriations bills.
One rider made it impossible to list a species as an endangered species, even if the science clearly showed that it was endangered.

A second blocked EPA from enforcing the wetlands program.

A third blocked rules that limit sewage overflows.

And another blocked rules against hazardous air pollution.
The special interest lobbyists may think it's clever to slip these riders into a big appropriations bill. But the American people think it wrong. They want clean air, clean water, and clean neighborhoods. They don't want our environmental laws dismantled, bit-by-bit, through the budget process.

The last time this was tried, the Administration, and Democrats in the House and Senate, stood up to the special interests.

And if they try to slip environmental riders into the appropriations bills again, we Democrats must be there to stop them.
And -- with the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore -- stop them we will.

Now I'd like to introduce a man who's been on the front lines of the environmental budget battle.

Who's helped lead the fight against environmental riders, and for a budget that provides funding for our environmental priorities.

The ranking member of the Superfund Subcommittee and of the Budget Committee, Senator Frank Lautenberg.
Press

Rep. Rivers
Rep. Borski
Sen. Bingaman
Sen. Lautenberg
Vice President

Rep. Waxman
Rep. Stokes
Rep. Hatten
Rep. Matsu
Rep. Furse
Rep. Lucinich

m. Schildkraut
STATEMENT OF SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
THE BUDGET AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

June 15, 1998

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR BAUCUS  
FROM: MIKE EVANS  
RE: WHITE HOUSE EVENT/THE BUDGET AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
DATE: 5/15/98

You have been asked to participate in a press conference on Tuesday, at 11:30, regarding the budget and the environment.

**Background.** The Administration set up the press conference to begin to take Republicans to task, for two shortcomings.

The first is underfunding environmental programs--most prominently by failing to provide the additional $650 million in Superfund cleanup funds.

The second is by, potentially, including environmental riders in the relevant appropriations bills. This hasn't happened yet. And it's probably a bigger problem in the House than the Senate, because the Senate appropriations committee leaders seem to be discouraging environmental riders--Senator Bond, in particular.

But, in any event, we must be on guard. In 1995, Republicans added more than a dozen environmental riders, including riders that imposed a moratorium on ESA listings, cut EPA out of the wetlands program, and overturned rules for stormwater, sewage overflows, and hazardous air pollutants.

Moreover, rumors abound that various Republicans are seriously considering riders again. For example, we have heard of potential riders that would prevent EPA from applying the Endangered Species Act to state permit decisions under the Clean Water Act and give Governors a veto over the decision to list a Superfund site in their state.

**Format.** Members should speak for no more than two minutes each. Congressman Waxman will speak first, then Congressman Stokes, each providing a House perspective. Then Rodger Shlickeisen will introduce you. After you speak, you will introduce Senator Lautenberg, who will introduce Vice President Gore.

We recommend that you briefly warn about, and pledge to fight, environmental riders, leaving the budget level issue to Senator Lautenberg.