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Campaign Announcement, Billings-Bozeman Rallies

Max S. Baucus

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(1) Subject*: **Baucus announces campaign for 6th term**

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

(2) Subject* **Bozeman and Billings Rallies**

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BAUCUS

Feb. 19, 2008

Announcement Speech, Billings-Boz Rallies

Montana's history has been the story of
courageous | gutsy | men and women who forged
ahead.

Men and women with calloused hands | sturdy
backs | and fortitude passed down from generation to
generation.

Our values were chiseled out of the bedrock of
Montana | We learned them from our parents | who
learned them from their parents.

Values of hard work, | independence, | honesty, |
common sense | faith, | and community.

We don't shy away from challenges | or a hard
day's work. | We come from good, Montana stock. | And
we're darn proud of it.

A lifetime of service:

When I was a much younger man | Less gray. |
Maybe a little lighter around the belt-line | I
contemplated what I wanted to do with my life. |

I've always valued service | Whether its service to
one's state | To Community | Or to Church | It's serving
people | and giving of yourself. | I've always believed
that service is the most noble human endeavor.

I was about 30 years old. I went to Mike
Mansfield to seek out his advice. I was pretty brazen
then, too. especially for a young guy.

I was thinking about running for public office. I
wanted to represent our state. serve our people.

Mike, in that subtle way of his, smiled at me and
said: "it takes a lot of hard work. a lot of shoe leather,
and a little bit of luck. But, yup, you can win." You SHOULD
DO IT!

Who would've guessed that 36 years later. I'd be
standing here today. With all of you, my friends.

Who would've guessed that I'd have the chance
to serve the state I love, representing the people that I
love.

Who would've guessed that I'd become chairman
of one of the most influential panels in Congress.

Who would've guessed that I'd build seniority and
be able to get CEOs of fortune 500 companies on the
phone to bring jobs to Montana.

35 years later, because Montanans have
entrusted me with this office, I get to do what's right
for folks who farm the fields of the Golden Triangle.

- I get to bat for people who hike in the Bear Tooth Mountains or shoot pheasants on the plains.//
- I work for Montanans who raise their kids in the Magic City, the Garden City, the Queen City, the Mining City or the Electric City.
- I get to help people who can't get the government to do its job.
- I get to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.
- I'm there for people who just can't catch a break.

Working together

I have always believed that nothing of any real consequence ever happens unless people work together.// That's how you get things done.// And I'm proud of our work together.

Working together

- We helped bring new good-paying jobs to Montana.
- We increased funding for our veterans health care
- We protected Montana's proud hunting and fishing heritage.
- Secured millions for Libby and helped its residents cope with poisonous asbestos
- We kept lobbyists from trying to run our government
- We secured more than \$8 billion for Montana's economy, secured 18,000 good-paying highway jobs and brought new companies to Montana.

Working together, we:

- Stopped President Bush from privatizing Social Security
- We took a historic first step to getting seniors a prescription drug benefit, provided health care to 14,000 Montana kids, and kept rural hospital doors open.
- We delivered the first minimum wage increase in a decade and got tax breaks for small businesses
- We increased domestic energy production, boosted alternative sources, and supported real Climate Change legislation.
- We waged war on meth and got cops what they need to fight back.

- We boosted rural schools, put good teachers into small classrooms, and helped our kids compete in a new era.

Those are some important victories, Critically important. But don't you think there's still more to do?

The part I love about this job the most is helping people.

What do we really care about?

When it comes right down to it, what do most Montanans really want out of life?

- It's having a good enough job to make sure your kids get what they need // And you can retire with dignity and a pension.
- It's being able to care for our parents because they cared for us.
- Take in a baseball game or go fishing.
- It's not paying more than we have to in taxes.
- Set aside some money for college.
- Pay the heating bill.
- Go to a movie on a Friday night.
- See friends and family you might not have talked to in a while.

This is our home | And it's the greatest state in greatest nation on the planet.

There's not a place anywhere in the world
where we'd rather be than in Montana. No where
in the world.

6 more years of doing what's right:

That's why I love my job so much | I have 900,000
of the world's best bosses.

[Emphasis]

And that's why I'm proud to say that I'm running
for reelection to the U.S. Senate | We've done an
awful lot. | But there's still more to do. | And the fire in
the belly burns brighter than ever. |

If you renew my job contract, | we'll keep doing
what's right for Montanans.

Over the next six years we'll dig in -- like we've
always done -- and do what's right for folks on Main
Streets -- from Ekalaka to Eureka -- and everywhere
in between.

We've come a long way together, but our shift
isn't over yet. We can't punch out just yet.

For the first time ever, a Montanan chairs the
Senate Finance Committee -- we can't give that up
now.

Why do it?

A lot of times folks ask me why I keep doing this. }
"Why not just hang it up, Max," they'll say. "You've
had a good run."

I'll think about it for a minute. | Being a senator
really is not always glamorous work | You're always on
the move. | On the plane, | off the plane. | A different
hotel room every night. | Thousands of miles behind
the windshield.

Heck, | I've even changed clothes in the gas
station men's room.

Someone is almost always mad at you –
somewhere, sometime.

It is not always glamorous. | But it's important. | And
I love it. | I feel like the luckiest guy in the world. | And at
the end of a long day, | I fall asleep knowing that I
made a real difference.

It's about helping real people with very real
problems.

I can boil it all down into one very simple reason. ||
I'm running again because there's still more to do. ||
More people to help.

I'm running again

- I'm running again because there are still young
parents out there like the ones I met in
Livingston both on the verge of tears because
they didn't know how to afford doctors visits and
groceries We're going to expand CHIP and get
every Montanan health insurance

- I'm running again because of the pain I felt looking into the eyes of an 8th grader in Billings who lost his mother to meth. We're going to get this poison out of communities -- for good.
- I'm running again because of the man who came up to me at Perkins in Great Falls. He was beaming with pride because he got a job on a highway crew. And he finally saved enough to take his wife on a vacation. I'm running again because jobs at home matter.
- I'm running again because of the young soldiers who come home; and for those, like my nephew, who do not.

- I'm running again | because we're not done yet. |
Montanans value our independence. | We use
common sense. | We don't like people to get into
our business, | and we stay out of theirs. | We've
got Western grit, | a deep sense of the land, | and
we value the Second Amendment.

I'm proud of our Montana, can-do attitude. | We're
cut from the same cloth | as the miners who built the
biggest copper mine in the country. | We sent the first
woman to Congress. | We're the Railroaders who built
lines across our state. | We're [Evil] Knievel. | And we're
not done yet.

I'm going to ask you some of 'em, and ~~we~~ want
to hear your answer.

- 1 c
- Is it right that Montana kids have to leave our state to find a good job? No it's not. We're not done yet.

- Is it right that America has an energy policy ^{THAT} gets us into wars and bankrupts us at the pump? No it's not right. We're not done yet.

- Is it right that so many Montana families can't afford to get sick. We're not done yet.

- Is it right that meth still plagues our communities. We're not done yet.

- We're not done yet | because our veterans fought
for their country; | they shouldn't have to fight for
health care when they get home // Are you with
me?!

Are you with me this November? | I can't here you.
Can I count on you?

As of right now, | we have exactly [insert] until the
polls open.

258 days, 19 h 30 min

Bozeman Rally: 258 days, 19 hours 30 mins

Billings Rally: 258 days, 14 hours, 30 mins

Hope for a better future:

I'm running again because our state's greatest
days lie ahead of us, not behind us.

In the sweep of history | we are just one little
speck. || We're not here forever || That's why we have a
moral obligation when we leave to leave this place in
is as good a shape, or better, than we found it.

As Montanans and Americans, it's the hope for a
better future that drives us to greatness.

- It's hope that motivates the student to get a
degree;
- It's hope for a better future | that gives the single
mom energy to work two jobs -- so her kids won't
have to

- It's hope that gives courage to the men and women in our armed forces;
- It's hope that wakes farmers and ranchers before sunrise;
- And it's hope that brings us together.

A new horizon has dawned in Montana. And working together with all of you, we will see that horizon rise to a glorious day across this magnificent place that we get to call home.

Thank you so very much.

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