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## Missoula Spring Fundraising Dinner

Max S. Baucus

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(1) Subject\*: **Democratic Party**

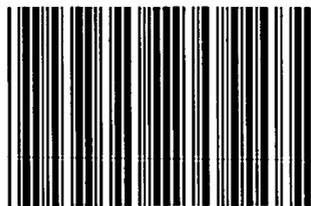
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(2) Subject\* **Introduction for Dennis McDonald**

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BAUCUS

Remarks For The Missoula Spring Fundraising Dinner

Dennis McDonald

Thanks, Mr. Chairman

Before I continue, I want to say a few words about Dennis McDonald. Dennis has done a great job leading our party, and he has us set to keeping roaring through 2008.

Dennis is from Melville. For those of you who don't know, Melville is between Big Timber and Harlowton. You could say it's a small town. We checked with the census and they didn't really have any population data. But the Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce estimates the population of Melville to be between "30-50 people."

So needless to say, Dennis knows rural, and that is why he has us poised to win races not only in the big cities like here and Butte, but also in the small towns like Choteau and Scobey.

### **Political Start**

Many years ago, when I had a little darker hair, and a little leaner waist line, I got my political feet wet right here in Missoula. I can still remember knocking on doors, walking the streets, and talking with folks all around town. And I was proud to represent the Garden City in the Montana House.

And I always love coming back here. Especially for events like tonight, to help all the candidates who are running.

## Great Day In Montana

A couple of weekends ago, I was here at UM for the opening of the Native American Center. And before the ceremony, I hiked up to the M. It was a great Montana spring day, a little chill in the air, but the sun was out and the sky was that perfect blue that you only see in the Big Sky.

And as I was sitting on the M, looking out over the five valleys, I thought to myself that November 4 is also going to be the perfect Montana day. Because while I'm no meteorologist, I can guarantee that the Montana sky is going to be very blue that day, as democrats are going to win from Ekalaka to Eureka.

## **Proud To Be A Democrat**

As I travel across the state, folks often ask me, Max why are you so proud to be a Democrat?

And I look them straight in the eye and tell them, I'm proud to be a Democrat:

- Because we won't say there is nothing wrong with our health care system, while kids are dying from tooth infections because they can't afford insurance.
- Because when we look at the Rocky Mountain Front we see a place to take our kids hiking, not an untapped oil well.
- Because for us, a women's health, and her right to choose, isn't a political football.

- Because we don't think that only the rich deserve a college education.
- Because when we meet workers in Bonner or Hamilton, we see people with families, not profit margins and bottom lines.
- Because we won't stand by while folks go broke at the pump, and oil company CEOs are lighting cigars with \$100 bills.
- Because we don't think religious beliefs come with a party affiliation.
- Because we think bigotry and discrimination are wrong, not a way to fire up the base.

- And mostly because we see public service as way to make folks life just a little bit better, to give their kids an education to compete, and to keep our state the Last Best Place.

### **Hard Work Till Election Day**

But let's not kid ourselves, our opponents aren't going to go down easy. They are going to bite, and claw, and use every dirty trick in the book. By the time November 5 rolls around, this election is going to make the Griz-Cat game look like a walk in the park.

## **Stepping Up To The Challenge**

But if it's one thing we as Montanans don't shy away from it's a challenge. Lewis and Clark didn't shy away from an unforgiving wilderness, Evel Kneivel didn't shy away from death defying stunts, and we sure as heck aren't going to shy away from our opponents.

Instead, we're going to roll up our sleeves, knock on doors till our knuckles bleed, walk the streets till our shoes wear out, and shake every hand for the next 184 days, and then once the polls close, we can get together and continue to work to make our state an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. Because isn't that what this is all about? Doing what's right for Montana.

That has been my yardstick for more than 30 years, and I know it is all of yours too.

Finally, I want to make a commitment to all of you. I'm going to be with you every step of the way. Whatever resources I have, they are yours. Because that is what it means to be a team, it means helping out. And I'm proud to be on all your teams. If we just stick to ourselves, only look out for our own individual race, only watch our own back, and just focus on ourselves, then we will never achieve the great things that we can as a team.

## **Closing**

In closing, I just want to thank you all for your work. For those of you running, thank you for putting yourselves, and your families on the line for the next six months or so. And for those of you providing all the ground support, we couldn't do it without you. And by working together, we are going to continue to work for the one place we all love: home.