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Montana Democratic Platform Convention

Max S. Baucus

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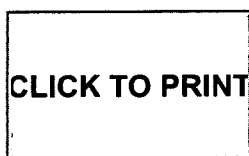
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(2) Subject* **Montana Democratic Platform Convention**

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Montana Democratic Platform Convention
Statement From Senator Max Baucus

June 11,2010

**Thank you Lane for that great introduction
and thank you for all your great service to our
state.**

**I also want to thank Chairman Jim Elliot and
Becky Reidl (Pronounced Reed-all). You're
working so hard to continue to advance our party
both across the state and right here in
Yellowstone County.**

Earlier tonight we heard from Big Jon, the farmer from Big Sandy. I can't tell you how great it is to have such a quality teammate back in Washington.

Jon and I recently introduced legislation together that will permanently protect the North Fork of the Flathead River from oil and gas development. It is that kind of team work that just can't be beat.

We also have such a great team in Helena. Starting at the top with the Mint Farmer from Whitefish all the way down, Democrats are really on the move.

While I could go on and on about each of these dedicated public servants, I want to take a minute to recognize our State Auditor, Monica Lindeen.

As many of you know, last March we passed landmark health care reform, and now, Monica and her team are working like the dickens to get it implemented and making sure that Montanans have the services and facts they need.

Monica, you are a superstar. Let's take a minute to recognize her for everything she does.

I also want to give a quick kudos to Steve Bullock. Steve came under fire from some Republican legislators to sue to repeal health care legislation. He handled this masterfully and really protected Montanans.

Health care reform was a historic achievement. It will make sure that our children and grandchildren have access to quality, affordable health care.

It will make sure that families and small businesses don't have to go bankrupt to pay for care. And it will make sure that seniors won't have to choose between going to the pharmacy or the grocery store.

I have had the honor and the privilege of serving the people of Montana for more than 30 years. And during that time, I can't think of any piece of legislation or achievement I have been more proud of.

**And that was just one of the many
accomplishments we achieved since the historic
election in 2008.**

Tell me:

**Who passed the equal pay for equal work act
so working moms make as much as working
dads? Democrats!**

**And who passed landmark student financial
reforms to make sure big banks don't get rich off
of hard working college kids? Democrats!**

**And who passed President Obama's
economic recovery plan to rescue us from the
worst economic collapse since the Great
Depression? Democrats!**

**And who is working to make sure Wall Street
won't be able to keep abusing Main Street?
Democrats!**

But we aren't done yet.

We're working on legislation in Congress to:

- **Create more good paying jobs here at
home.**

- **And keep our highways strong.**
- **To create new energy sources for new energy jobs.**
- **And to make sure that hard working Montanans keep more of their hard earned dollars in their pocket.**

We know that people are angry and frustrated with government. But, we can break through that if we continue to remember who we are here to serve and show folks everyday how we are working for them.

It is with hard working families in mind, that this weekend, we adopt our Party platform.

This platform will be a roadmap for where we want our party, and our state, to head over the next two years. A road map for creating better schools, protecting our outdoors and creating good paying jobs.

But, as we all know, if we don't work together these will be nothing more than words on a page.

If we don't come together, and unite as a party, we won't be able to accomplish what we want and what Montanans expect.

I know some of us differ on certain things, but surely that which unites us is far greater than that which divides us. Make no mistake, November 2010 is going to be a tough year for Democrats.

We'll have to work harder than we ever have in Billings and in Bozeman and even in Boulder. In Ravalli County and in Rosebud County and in Richland County. In large cities and rural communities.

But, united, we can shape the future.

We can shock the pundits and prove that a candidate who is willing to work for small businesses not big corporations, a candidate who believes that every person deserves to see a doctor when their sick, and that a hand up is not a hand out, will win at the ballot box.

And as I look across the room I see candidates like that.

I see Dennis McDonald, who is proudly saying, it's time for a change. Denny Rehberg has been going around the state decrying everything under the sun. He thinks it's better to prey on people's fears than provide solutions.

Well, a Melville rancher is about to show Montanans what real representation looks like.

And I see dozens of other folks with a hunger in their eye and a fire in their belly because they want to keep our state the Last Best Place. They want to work to make things better for all their constituents.

I want everyone who is running for office to come up here. Stand up here with your fellow Democrats, your fellow candidates, because it is only by working hand in hand with the person you're standing shoulder to shoulder with that we will be able to deliver victory in November.

Let's give them all a hand. Keep it up, they need our support.

(After a few minutes of applause) Thank you all so much. Have a great night.