General Electric Event in Billings

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(1) Subject*: Economy
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(2) Subject* General Electric Event in Billings, Montana

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* "required information"
Introduction

- It is great to see all of you here today.

- I am told GE has hosted events like this elsewhere in the country, from rural Nevada and North Dakota, to the major metropolitan areas of Southern California and Chicago.

- Today’s event in Billings, filled with only Montana companies, is the biggest they have ever done.

- It speaks to the growth of the manufacturing sector in Montana and its importance in the long-term health of our economy.

- It is also a testimony to something I’ve witnessed time and time again:

  - When opportunity meets good, old fashioned Montana work ethic, the possibilities are endless.

  - With the collection of hardworking, innovative minds in the room, I am confident today’s event will be not only the biggest, but also the most successful.

Thanking GE

- I would like to thank GE for hosting today’s event.

- Events like this open windows of opportunity to small businesses across the country.

- GE has been a great partner and job creator in Montana.

- They came to my Economic Development Summit in Butte in 2007, met with many Montana businesses, and liked what they saw.
• They have since opened a financial services office just down the road. It employs close to 200 Montanans.

• Between the contracts currently being discussed, and the conversations resulting from today’s event, I am confident their presence in our state will grow, and the jobs they create will be many.

Montana Business Profile

• Our state is a great place to do business and our people possess a resilient and entrepreneurial spirit that is unique to Montana.

• Montanans are tough. Our work ethic is second to none.

• If you want it, Montana businesses can provide it.

• In addition to our world-class agricultural sector, our budding high-tech businesses are making important advances in medical research and energy development.

• Customers around the globe use Montana manufactured goods to mine, to communicate, and to fish.

• Montana manufactured goods have been shipped to every state in the union, every corner of the globe, and even to orbit the earth.

• Manufacturers in Montana accounted for two billion dollars in output in 2010, including 1.2 billion dollars of exported goods.

• The jobs they support come with high salaries, almost fifty percent higher than non-manufacturing jobs.

• These jobs are critical to the long-term growth of the Montana economy, and we will do everything we can to secure more of these jobs.
Baucus Job Creation

- As your Senator, I am working hard to create opportunities for Montana businesses

- I am leading the charge in Congress to pass our pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama.

- These agreements would provide important access to millions of new customers.

- Earlier this year, I led a trade mission of Montana businesses to Brazil and Colombia.

- Next month, my office will lead a mission to the oil sands of northern Alberta.

- My Economic Development Summits bring business leaders from around the globe to see what we are doing in Montana.

- Today’s event is just one piece in an overall effort to create good paying jobs in Montana.

Conclusion

- Thank you again for being here, and I wish you the best of luck in your discussions.

- If you hit any red tape or need a hand along the way, give me a call or email.

- Let me know if there is anything we can do to help support your efforts to grow, prosper and make this symposium a real success in the long term for your businesses and your communities.