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Land Trust Alliance Reception

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Land Trust Alliance Reception

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

- **Thank you so much. I'm honored to be here.**
- **This award is about all of you and everyone who believes in land conservation.**
- **It's about everyone who has stood up for the proper care of our ranches and our outdoor heritage.**
- **This is about years of work, from all of us, towards our goal.**

- **When I speak to landowners, ranchers and farmers in Montana, I hear the same thing in every town from Ekalaka to Eureka:**
- **We need to preserve open spaces for our children and grandchildren.**
- **This goes beyond protecting our resources and our economy.**
- **It's about making sure that we are stewards of God's creation.**

- **So thank you to the Land Trust Alliance and the Montana Land Reliance.**
- **Without folks like Rock Ringling or Doug Mitchell, we wouldn't be here today.**
- **In fact, it was Rock who gave me the idea for a bill we passed back in 2006 – an enhanced charitable deduction for donations of conservation easements.**

- **That provision recognized the importance of preserving the beauty of our lands for future generations.**
- **For several years now, we've managed to get the temporary provision extended.**
- **But like many of you, I want to make it permanent and will lead the fight for permanency.**

- **Just yesterday, I reintroduced the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act of 2011, along with my colleague and friend, Senator Chuck Grassley.**

- **We're going to keep working, until we get it done. And it has truly been an honor and a pleasure to work alongside you all. Thank you.**