2-15-2011

Land Trust Alliance Reception

Max S. Baucus
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.