

8-2011

GE Event

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Recommended Citation

Baucus, Max S., "GE Event" (August 1, 2011). *Max S. Baucus Speeches and Remarks*. 913.
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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.**