

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
From: Sean Neary and Meaghan Smith for Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.)
Date: April 23, 2013
Re: Baucus Comment on Decision to Not Seek Re-election, Focus on Tax Reform, Serving Montana

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) issued the following comment today on his decision to spend the next year and a half focusing on his job as Montana's senior Senator and Finance Committee Chairman as opposed to re-election. From Chairman Baucus:

"Serving the people of Montana has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life. Over the past 35 years, I have been lucky to go from working for just under 800,000 of the world's best bosses to more than a million – and I am grateful to each and every one of them for the opportunity they have given me.

"When I first asked my hero and mentor Mike Mansfield whether I should run for U.S. Senate nearly 40 years ago, he told me it would take a lot of hard work, a lot of shoe leather, and a bit of luck. In the next year and a half, I want to spend all my hard work, shoe leather and luck working for the people of Montana instead of on campaigning.

"So, after much consideration and many conversations with my wife Mel and our family, I have decided not to seek reelection in 2014. I will serve out my term, and then it will be time to go home to Montana.

"But, I'm not turning out to pasture because there is important work left to do, and I intend to spend the year and a half getting it done. Our country and our state face enormous challenges – rising debt, a dysfunctional tax code, threats to our outdoor heritage, and the need for more good-paying jobs.

"I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I will double down on legislation to permanently protect the American side of the North Fork watershed and keep the Rocky Mountain Front the way it is for future generations. I am going to put everything I've got into leaving Montana with strong Highway and Farm Bills that support jobs in our state. And I'm going full steam ahead to put on the best Economic Development Summit yet.

"At a national level, I will continue to work on simplifying and improving the tax code, tackling the nation's debt, pushing important job-creating trade agreements through the Senate, and implementing and expanding affordable health care for more Americans.

"Deciding not to run for re-election was an extremely difficult decision. After thinking long and hard, I decided I want to focus the next year and a half on serving Montana unconstrained by the demands of a campaign. Then, I want to come home and spend time with Mel, my son Zeno, and our family enjoying the Montana public lands we've fought hard to keep open and untarnished.

"Above all else, I want Montanans to know how grateful and humbled I am to have had the privilege of serving them, and I look forward to working with them as I continue to serve the state I love for the next year and a half."

Chairman Baucus' biography and lifetime achievements are attached.

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