

Teamwork between parties a must

RM Question: *How will you help ensure Montana's priorities are heard in Congress, especially in the areas of energy and agriculture? In what ways do you see the state's delegation cooperating to transcend politics for the good of Montana citizens?*



By Senator Max Baucus

One way I'll work to boost Montana's energy production is through Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.

In the 2005 energy bill, I inserted a provision to provide \$800 million in CREBs funding, which enables governmental and tax-exempt entities — such as cities and rural electric cooperatives — to finance alternative energy projects at zero interest.

More than 35 Montana cities and counties applied for the funding. When the CREB recipients were announced, Montana received more than \$72 million in funding — that is almost a tenth of the amount allotted for the entire country.

These dollars will help jump-start 32 wind energy projects in Montana and create more good-paying jobs. This was a huge win for our state. Since the program was so successful, I decided to extend it.

In 2007, there will be \$400 million available for CREBs projects. Of that, \$150 million is set aside for the electric cooperatives and \$250 million is set aside for government entities, including tribes. Montana will be able to apply for even more CREBs funding.

I will use my senior post on the Ag Committee to ensure that the 2007 Farm Bill is right for our producers.

I will work to open new markets for Montana's world-class products. I will continue to push for countries to resume taking our beef — it's the highest, safest quality in the world and it should be on dinner tables everywhere.

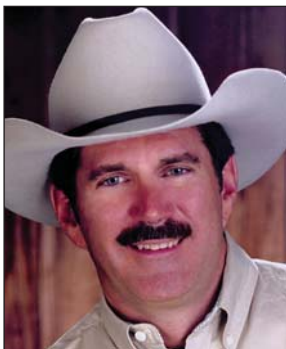
I am committed to working with Sen. Jon Tester and Rep. Denny Rehberg to make our state an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Contact me so I can serve you better. Send me an e-mail at max@baucus.senate.gov or call me at 800-332-6106.

With the shift in the Senate, I will now be the chairman of Senate Finance, with jurisdiction over taxes, trade, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Montana and the rest of the country need to continue to work to reduce dependence on foreign energy sources and to produce more energy at home.

I'll continue to use my position to create tax incentives to boost energy production in Montana and the U.S.



By Representative Denny Rehberg

tant to Montana and other rural areas. I also spend a lot of time explaining issues that are important to Montanans to members from urban and suburban areas who aren't familiar with the needs of a rural constituency. I've found this approach to be effective.

The year holds opportunity for Montana, especially in the areas of agriculture and energy production. For starters, Congress will be working on a new Farm Bill in 2007. It will be critical that the delegation works together to ensure Montana's farmers and ranchers have a place at the negotiating table.

Visit my Web site at www.house.gov/rehberg/ or call one my offices at 888-232-2626 to learn more about upcoming Farm Bill listening sessions.

Energy will also continue to be a top priority, with a lot of items on our menu. We're not like some states that are only involved in oil production or

other states that only make ethanol. Whether through oil, coal, bio-mass fuels or wind power, Montana has a lot to offer. One project I want to see is the development of a coal-to-liquid fuels plant. This is an idea whose time has come, and I want to continue working with the Gov. Schweitzer on this.

As a delegation, all three of us can carve out a niche in energy and work toward creating good jobs for Montanans while making the state a major player on the national stage.

Putting aside the difference in party affiliation isn't optional for us; it's an absolute must. Even though our two senators and I will differ from time-to-time on various issues, I firmly believe we're Montanans first and a Republican and Democrats second. That's the attitude that's going to help us get the positive work done for our state that Montanans sent us to Washington to do.

I'll be working as a member of the minority party for the first time, but my ability to make sure Montana's priorities are heard on the House floor or in committee won't change a bit.

The new look of Montana's congressional delegation emphasizes the need for teamwork, and I look forward to working with Sens. Baucus and Tester to get things done for Montana.

I spend a lot of time building coalitions with my House colleagues from both parties to advance causes impor-

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sion, the guide is published as a public service by the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA), the Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA) and Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems (MITS).

The guide features photographs of all of the legislators and information about them including which committees they will be serving on. The guide also features photos and information about the top state office holders and Montana's Congressional delegation. The telephone numbers for key state agencies are included as are the legislative calendar and a diagram of the Capitol's floor plan.

A popular part of the guide is a fold-out cartoon illustration showing how bills proceed through the legislative process.

Legislators, schools, universities and the general public have found the guide useful. The 2007-2008 guide will be available free at the information desk in the Capitol, from MECA, MITS and MTA and from your local electric cooperative. The guide may also be obtained through *Rural Montana* magazine for the cost of postage and handling. To order the guide through *Rural Montana*, fill out the form below and send it and a

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By Senator Jon Tester

After talking with my wife, Sharla, in 2005, I decided to run for the U.S. Senate because I believed many of our nation's leaders were not addressing the concerns of average Montana families. They overlooked the middle class in favor of special interests. That's not how things are done here in Montana.

Now that you have entrusted me—a third-generation grain farmer from Big Sandy—with the office once held by Sen. Mike Mansfield, I will fight for all hard-working families.

I will bring with me the same work ethic that led to better education and small business tax cuts in the 2005 Montana Legislature.

I will proudly serve on the Small Business, Indian Affairs, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Banking and Energy Committees and ensure that Congress hears the needs and addresses the concerns of all Montanans.

These committees reflect the important issues as well as exciting opportunities for our state, and I look forward to working with you to bring Montana ideas and values to each one of them.

As a farmer and a small businessman I know first-hand the importance of energy development. We have many opportunities under the Big Sky, especially when it comes to developing renewable and alternative energy. Not only do these industries provide jobs and an economic foundation for

Montana, they are critical to energy independence and to our nation's security. And they will benefit our children.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues in writing the 2007 Farm Bill. Many of them—both Democrats and Republicans—have already told me they value my insight as a working farmer.

I will share with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle the concerns farmers and ranchers have shared with me over the last year and a half.

Most importantly, I am going to Washington, D.C., for all people of Montana. I will work with Sen. Baucus and Rep. Rehberg to put aside politics and do what's right for our state.

Montana will always come first.

Please don't hesitate to share your ideas and concerns. We're in this together. I look forward to serving as your United States Senator.