



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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For Immediate Release
May 6, 2003

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Baucus Comments on Chairman's Mark, "Job and Growth Tax Act of 2003"

"I cannot support the economic proposal that was presented today by Chairman Grassley. The purpose of an economic stimulus plan is to stimulate and rebuild our economy. Cutting taxes on dividends -- a main component of the Chairman's proposal -- will not effectively rebuild our economy since more than 70% of Americans do not receive dividends and will see no tax relief under this proposal. In addition, the Chairman's proposal will not send a penny in direct aid to our cash strapped states. I am also concerned by the current size of the Chairman's proposal. The current proposal -- as now written -- costs more than \$350 billion and violates the agreement we came to on the Senate floor to limit the size of the package.

Rebuilding America's economy and creating more good paying jobs is my number one goal for the country. I am committed to working together with all members of the Finance Committee to reach agreement on a proposal that will not go above \$350 billion and will provide tax relief to those who need it -- our working families and small businesses. These folks are the backbone of our economy and deserve tax relief now, through immediate state aid and small business tax relief and investment incentives. We must also address the needs of our unemployed workers who are having a difficult time finding work in the current economy. Their benefits are due to expire on May 31, 2003 and it's important to provide them with an extension in our economic stimulus package.

I remain dedicated to working together with Chairman Grassley and the rest of the Finance Committee to pass an economic stimulus package that will help all Americans. Rebuilding the economy is more important than party lines or political differences. I'm hopeful we can come to an agreement in the end on a strong, responsible and effective bill that sends relief to the people who need it."

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