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**JOINT STATEMENT BY SENATORS MURRAY, BAUCUS AND KERRY  
ON JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

***Washington, DC*** – Senate Democratic Conference Secretary Patty Murray, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry released the following joint statement today after being appointed to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

**“We are grateful and humbled that Leader Reid asked us to join this Committee to help tackle this critical issue for the American people. While some will argue there is peril in serving on this committee, we believe there is far greater peril in leaving these issues unaddressed. It is long overdue to step beyond the partisanship and politics that have overwhelmed these discussions for months. The true peril lies in inaction, so we look forward to working with our colleagues to find solutions for our economy and for our country. We very much want this joint committee to be a serious committee because these are among the most serious challenges we’ve ever faced in the Senate.**

**“This is an important moment for our country. Millions of Americans are struggling in this tough economy, working overtime to pay the bills, find a job, and find a way forward for their families, and they want this Committee to make the federal government do the same without the red hot partisanship and brinksmanship of the last months.**

**“Every member of Congress knows the importance of getting our fiscal house in order. We hear every day about the importance of ensuring our country is strong for generations to come, and we look forward to working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to address these issues in a balanced, pragmatic and practical way. This is not going to be easy. Our challenge is to find common ground without damaging anyone’s principles. We believe we can get there. This Committee was designed to require bipartisanship, and we are going to work hard with our Republican colleagues to attain it. We know Americans will stand by us if we work together to tackle our debt and deficit and help get our economy back on track.**

**“This Committee has to tackle the urgent challenge we face today, but it’s also about what we want our country to look like 10 years from now, 20 years from now, and for generations to come. Americans are demanding leadership, and we are going to work hard to deliver it.”**

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