



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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BAUCUS: TELECOM OVERHAUL SHOULD INCLUDE PHONE EXCISE TAX

*Treasury ruling on refunds is good first step, reminder that laws need updating
to consider technology advances, global competitiveness*

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee today applauded a Treasury Department decision to provide refunds on the Federal telephone excise tax, and called for updating of the nation's telecommunications statutes.

“The telephone excise tax is a prime example of the need to overhaul our telecom laws, and particularly those tax provisions that have been rendered obsolete by the advancement of technology,” said Baucus. **“Ensuring American competitiveness in the coming decades demands a comprehensive look at U.S. telecommunications law. I’ll be looking for fiscally responsible ways to eliminate antiquated statutes and create new, forward-looking policy that enhances America’s global competitiveness.”**

Baucus, a strong advocate of policy changes that will improve America’s ability to compete in the global marketplace, says that a second-rate communications infrastructure will slow American innovation, and has called for sound changes to telecom law.

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