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For Immediate Release Tuesday, June 6, 2006 Contact:

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BAUCUS MEETS WITH TREASURY NOMINEE PAULSON

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, released the following statement today after an hour-long meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary nominee Henry Paulson. Paulson has been chosen by the White House to replace retiring Secretary John Snow. The Senate Finance Committee will be responsible for Paulson's confirmation hearing. Today, Baucus and Paulson discussed a range of topics from America's economic competitiveness to currency policy to the annual \$345 billion tax gap.

"Hank Paulson clearly approaches this job not as an ideologue, but as a pragmatic problem-solver whose advice, if the Administration takes it, could have a positive effect on our economic and budgetary policy. I feel very strongly that for the sake of the country's future, the next Treasury Secretary must take strong steps to ensure America's global economic competitiveness, and in our conversation Hank evidenced an understanding of and a commitment to that task. I look forward to his confirmation hearings and to working with him in the years to come."