

## **Committee On Finance**

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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<u>For Immediate Release</u> Thursday, June 30, 2005 Contact: Anya Landau/Wendy Carey 202-224-4515

## Despite Veto Threat Over Cuba, Baucus To Block Treasury Nominees

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** Following a White House veto threat over a provision in the House transportation appropriations bill that would allow agriculture sales to Cuba to resume, U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said he will continue to block Treasury Department nominees that come before the Senate.

"I am disappointed to learn that the administration is committed to enforcing this stringent new Treasury Department restriction on agricultural sales to Cuba, despite the drag it is having on U.S. sales to the island. Agricultural exports to Cuba rose to more than \$400 million last year, but then dropped by more than 25 percent in the first four months of this year because of this rule. We should be opening new markets for farmers and ranchers, not closing them. So I will keep fighting for Montana farmers and ranchers. Until I am convinced that these agricultural sales can continue as Congress intended, I have no choice but to keep my promise to block consideration of significant nominees to the Treasury Department that come before the Senate."

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