



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, September 3, 2003

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NEWS ADVISORY

Sen. Baucus and Rep. Flake to Hold Press Roundtable on U.S.-Cuba Relations; Congressional Delegation Traveling to Cuba Sept. 12

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) On Thursday, September 4, Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Representative Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) will speak to the press regarding their efforts to lift the Cuba travel ban and help bring democracy to the region.

In April, bipartisan legislation was introduced in both the Senate and House that would allow all Americans to travel freely to Cuba. The House is expected to vote Thursday on an amendment that would effectively lift the travel ban.

"For over 40 years, Americans have been prevented from traveling to Cuba, and for over 40 years, Castro hasn't moved an inch closer to democracy," Flake said. "If we are serious about undermining Castro and bringing democracy to that island, why not let Americans travel there with that message?"

Prior to the Press Roundtable, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee will be holding a hearing at 10 a.m. in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building to examine U.S.-Cuba relations.

"The political situation in Cuba shows no signs of improving," Finance Committee Ranking Member Baucus said. "In fact, the situation is deteriorating as Castro continues to commit human rights violations and limit free speech. It's time for a change and it's past time for Congress to pass legislation lifting the travel ban and allowing engagement between our two countries."

In addition, Baucus will be part of a Congressional Delegation traveling to Cuba on September 12 to meet with dissidents, with Cuban President Fidel Castro, and with community and agriculture leaders.

Event: Press Roundtable focusing on joint House-Senate legislation to lift the Cuba travel ban and Congressional trip to Cuba.

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2003 2:30 p.m.

Location: 511 Hart Senate Office Building

Participants: Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Ranking Member of Senate Finance Committee and Representative Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.)

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