



601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 900, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2601  
Tel: 202-220-3172  
Fax: 202-639-8238  
Toll-Free: 1-866-360-7197  
Email: [nrlnmessage@msn.com](mailto:nrlnmessage@msn.com)  
Website: <http://www.NRLN.org>

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**NRLN is a coalition of 30 associations  
advocating the rights of more than 2  
million American retirees from...**

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January 25, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman, Finance Committee  
United State Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2602

Dear Chairman Baucus:

On behalf of the more than two million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I want to thank you for your recent Senate Floor Statements to protect Social Security and Medicare from becoming part of the proposed fast-track commission which would circumvent the regular legislative process.

You were right on target when you stated, *"Millions of American seniors rely on Social Security. Social Security is a commitment to America's seniors. We should prevent a fast-track process from renegeing on Social Security's commitment."*

Social Security and Medicare should not become, in your words, "a big roll of the dice" before a commission that would present take-it-or-leave-it recommendations, thus disenfranchising most of our elected representatives.

Under your leadership, the Senate Finance Committee should continue to retain jurisdiction over the programs involving the Social Security Act. Any deliberations on Social Security and Medicare must be conducted in the open so America's retirees will know whether their members of Congress are working to protect their Social Security and Medicare benefits they and their former employers paid for over many years.

Because the Association of U S West Retirees is an NRLN member, I know that many AUSWR members live in Montana and they depend on Social Security and Medicare to sustain their quality of life. The NRLN is prepared to assist you in protecting Social Security and Medicare. Please contact Marta Bascom, NRLN Executive Director, on 703-848-9840 if we can be of help.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network