

**BAUCUS APPLAUDS FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL
OF COMMERCE, SOCIAL SECURITY
AND MEDICARE TRUSTEE NOMINEES**

*Finance Committee Favorably Reports Camuñez, Blahous, Reischauer,
Nominees Head to the Full Senate for Confirmation*

Washington, DC – Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) applauded the Committee’s vote today to favorably report the nominations of Michael C. Camuñez to be the Assistant Secretary of Market Access and Compliance at the Department of Commerce, and Charles P. Blahous III and Robert D. Reischauer to be Public Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.

“Filling these posts is an important part of our work to promote economic competitiveness, create the environment businesses need to create jobs and protect Social Security and Medicare for future generations,” Baucus said. **“An aggressive trade agenda that supports American ranchers, farmers and small businesses is critical to creating jobs and growing our economy, and I’m confident Mr. Camuñez will be an important partner in our efforts to achieve that goal. Health care reform made significant progress in slowing the growth of health care costs, reducing the deficit and protecting the stability of the Medicare program, and Mr. Blahous and Mr. Reischauer will play an important role as public trustees in continuing to protect those critical programs. I urge the Senate to confirm these nominees quickly so these nominees can get to work for the American people.”**

As Assistant Commerce Secretary, Camuñez will play an important role in implementing the Administration’s goal of doubling American exports in five years through the National Export Initiative (NEI). Baucus has expressed strong support for the initiative and repeatedly emphasized the need for the NEI to achieve real, measurable results for American ranchers, farmers, manufacturers and small businesses.

Unlike most other Presidential appointments, the Public Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees represent the public rather than the Administration. Public Trustees, along with the Administration officials who also serve as trustees, report each year on the financial status of the trust funds. By law, the Administration is required to appoint both a Democratic and a Republican nominee to the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees.

The Finance Committee voted to favorably report Camuñez and Blahous unanimously today and voted to report Reischauer by a vote of 14-9. The nominations will now be sent to the Senate floor for consideration by the full Senate.

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