

SENATE REFORM FUND – REMEMBER WHEN

Overview

- Senate Reform Fund is a dark money group propping up Matt Rosendale that specifically organized itself to avoid disclosing its donors for months.
- Jon Tester’s travel to Israel was a fact-finding mission sponsored by an educational nonprofit, which routinely takes Members of Congress – including Senator Steve Daines – on fact-finding trips to Israel.
- Jon Tester has been a leader in fighting for more transparency and to end congressional perks in Washington, DC, becoming the first Senator to post his schedule online, voting to ban lobbyist-funded travel for Congress, banning insider trading inside Congress, and pushing to ban Members of Congress from lobbying for 5 years.
- Matt Rosendale as Insurance Commissioner has raised thousands of dollars for his campaign from the insurance industry, took over \$10,000 in travel from an out-of-state special interest group to junkets around the country where he rubbed elbows with insurance executives and lobbyists, and voted to revive “special accounts” that would have let lobbyists fund his travel in the legislature.
- Senate Reform Fund edited video of Jon Tester to remove his call for working family farms and ranches in Montana to be exempted from the estate tax, and two of the alleged 8 votes it cited were instances of Jon Tester fighting to prevent the estate tax from increasing on Montana farmers and ranchers. Jon Tester has always and will always fight to ensure working Montana family farms and ranches are not burdened by the estate tax.
- Matt Rosendale backed a tax bill that will increase our national debt by nearly \$2 trillion, said that Montana farmers and ranchers suffering under a trade war was “part of the process,” and backed land use rules that would have helped developers like him and hurt farmers.
- One of the alleged 9 votes cited by the Senate Reform Fund was actually a vote to help states create and retain teacher jobs, and the dark money group edited the clip of Jon Tester to remove his call for ending secret earmarks – which he later voted to do.
- Jon Tester has been a champion of rooting out government waste, fraud, and abuse, returning more than \$3 million from his office budget and working across the aisle to pass legislation to bring accountability to Washington.

Claim

VO: Remember when Jon Tester said

TESTER: I will not be accepting meals, travel, or rooms.

VO: Then he accepted a 25,000 dollar trip to Israel?

ON SCREEN: ACCEPTED A \$25,000 TRIP TO ISRAEL

Citation: Tester Press Release 10/24/06

Facts

JON TESTER MET WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

HEADLINE: “Tester Meets with Israeli Prime Minister.” [Associated Press, [11/28/13](#)]

Jon Tester Met With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu During A Weeklong Fact-Finding Visit To Israel Scheduled By The American Israel Education Foundation. “Tester said Netanyahu left their one-on-one meeting Sunday evening in Jerusalem to take a call from President Barack Obama. Tester, D-Mont., had scheduled his weeklong visit to Israel some time ago, arranged and sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation, a pro-Israel group that routinely takes members of Congress on fact-finding trips to Israel. He flew into Jerusalem last Friday and was scheduled to leave Tel Aviv late Tuesday night on the first of three flights taking him to Great Falls by Wednesday afternoon.” [Missoulia, [11/26/13](#)]

- **Jon Tester Spent Five Days In Israel Visiting Border Areas, Farming Cooperatives, And Meeting With Counterterrorism And Business Experts.** “Tester spent most of the past five days in Israel, visiting all corners of the country, including religious sites, farming cooperatives, Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank area and border areas near Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. He also met with Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator from the Palestinian Authority, a retired Israeli general who worked in counterterrorism and Dan Shapiro, the U.S. ambassador to Israel...He also met with an Israeli business expert who said the country has a good climate for startup businesses. Positive business factors in Israel include access to

capital, a good education system and something that the United States doesn't have, Tester said: Required military service, which fosters a sense of discipline, service and sacrifice among Israeli citizens." [Missoulian, [11/26/13](#)]

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION ROUTINELY TOOK MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING STEVE DAINES, ON FACT-FINDING TRIPS TO ISRAEL

Missoulian: "The American Israel Education Foundation...Routinely Takes Members Of Congress On Fact-Finding Trips To Israel." [Missoulian, [11/26/13](#)]

- **August 2013: Steve Daines And 25 Other Members Of Congress Participated In A Trip To Israel Sponsored By The American Israel Education Foundation To Learn About US-Israeli Relations And The Peace Process With Palestine.** [MTPR, [8/14/13](#)]
- **August 2016: Steve Daines And Other Members Of Congress Participated In A Weeklong Fact-Finding Trip To Israel Sponsored And Paid For By The American Israel Education Foundation.** [News Release, Office of Rep. David Rouzer, [8/2/16](#)]

JON TESTER LED BY EXAMPLE IN WASHINGTON, FIGHTING TO END CONGRESSIONAL PERKS AND INCREASE TRANSPARENCY IN WASHINGTON

JON TESTER PASSED LEGISLATION BANNING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM ACCEPTING TRAVEL, GIFTS, AND MEALS FROM LOBBYISTS

New York Times: Jon Tester Voted For The Honest Leadership And Open Government Act Of 2007, Which "Call[ed] For Bans On Gifts, Meals And Travel Paid For By Lobbyists." "The Senate gave final approval Thursday to a far-reaching package of new ethics and lobbying rules, with an overwhelming majority of Republicans and Democrats agreeing to improve policing of the relationship between lawmakers and lobbyists. If President Bush signs the bill into law, members of Congress would face a battery of new restrictions. The legislation, approved by the Senate on a vote of 83 to 14, calls for bans on gifts, meals and travel paid for by lobbyists and makes it more difficult for lawmakers to capitalize quickly on their connections when joining the private sector." [New York Times, [8/3/07](#); CQ, [8/2/07](#); S. 1, Vote 294, [8/2/07](#)]

- **Times-Picayune Editorial: "Groundbreaking Ethics Legislation...Will Ban Gifts, Meals And Travel Financed By Lobbyists."** "The business of governing should be done in the open, and that's why Americans should be encouraged by the groundbreaking ethics legislation Congress approved this week. The bill requires better disclosure of contributions to members of Congress and of earmarks, the special spending measures lawmakers use to fund pet projects. It also for the first time will require disclosure of small campaign contributions that are bundled by lobbyists and it will ban gifts, meals and travel financed by lobbyists." [Editorial, Times-Picayune, 8/4/07]

JON TESTER WAS THE FIRST SENATOR TO POST HIS SCHEDULE PUBLICLY SO MONTANANS COULD SEE WHO HE WAS MEETING WITH

HEADLINE: "Tester Says Full Transparency Is Necessary To Earn Trust." [KGVO, [12/2/11](#)]

Jon Tester Was The First Senator To Post His Daily Schedule Online. "Tester said he's proud of what he's done in the Senate. 'I've got myself on some committees that have really helped and allowed us to do some really good work for Montana,' Tester said. The senator said he's 'set the standard' in making the Senate more transparent and was the first senator to post his daily schedule online." [Helena Independent Record, [2/5/11](#)]

- **Jon Tester: "The Voters Are My Bosses...They Need To Be Able To Know What I'm Doing."** [Missoulian, [2/22/09](#)]

Center For Public Integrity Executive Director Bill Buzenberg: “Tester Was Absolutely The Head Of The Pack...Give Credit Where Credit Is Due - What He Has Done Has Changed The Playing Field.” [Missoulia, [2/22/09](#)]

JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TO END AUTOMATIC RAISES FOR CONGRESS

March 2009: Jon Tester Was One Of 10 Democratic Senators To Vote To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress. [CQ, [3/10/09](#); Vote 95, S. Amdt. 621 to H.R. 1105, [3/10/09](#)]

March 2012: Jon Tester Introduced Measure Eliminating Cost Of Living Adjustment For Members Of Congress. [S. 2210, Text, Library of Congress, [3/20/12](#)]

- **September 2012: Jon Tester Voted In Favor Of A Continuing Appropriations Measure That Denied Congressional Pay Adjustment.** [Public Law 112-175, [9/28/12](#); H.R. Res. 117, Vote 199, [9/22/12](#); Congressional Research Service, [6/21/16](#)]

2009-2016: Jon Tester Cosponsored Bipartisan Measures To Eliminate Automatic Pay Raises For Members Of Congress. [S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [9/8/16](#); S. 133, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [1/25/11](#); S. 542, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/10/09](#)]

JON TESTER COSPONSORED SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION BANNING TAXPAYER-FUNDED OIL PAINTINGS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Jon Tester-Cosponsored Legislation Prohibiting Federal Funds For Official Portraits For Members Of Congress Was Signed Into Law. On April 24, 2017, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 188, the EGO Act. NPR reported: “On Tuesday, President Trump signed into law the Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act, also known as — wait for it — the EGO Act. Under the new law, federal funds can no longer be used toward official painted portraits for federal government officials or employees. (It remains a little unclear if watercolor painters can find themselves a loophole.) The law applies to members of Congress, heads of executive agencies, even the president himself.” [Cosponsors, S. 188, Library of Congress, [4/24/17](#); NPR, [3/28/18](#)]

TESTER VOTED TO BAN INSIDER TRADING BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

2012: Jon Tester Voted For The STOCK Act, Which Banned Insider Trading By Members Of Congress. On March 22, 2012, Jon Tester voted in favor of “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would clarify that members of Congress as well as officials and senior staff of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government are covered by current regulations that bar the use of non-public information for trading stocks and bonds. It would require lawmakers and other covered officials to publicly report any stock or securities transaction within 45 days of when the transaction occurs. It would bar lawmakers and other covered officials from participating in initial stock offerings on a favored basis.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 96-3. [Vote 56, S. 2038, [3/22/12](#); CQ, [3/22/12](#)]

- **Jon Tester On The STOCK Act: “It Is Critically Important That We Operate In A Way That Is Totally Clean.”** [NewsTalk KGVO, [12/2/11](#)]

JON TESTER INTRODUCED BILL TO “DRAIN THE SWAMP” BY IMPOSING A FIVE-YEAR LOBBYING BAN ON LAWMAKERS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS

HEADLINE: “Dem Senator Introduces Bill To 'Drain The Swamp.'” [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]

Jon Tester Introduced A Bill To Establish A 5-Year Lobbying Ban For Executive Branch Officials And Members Of Congress. On March 2, 2017, Jon Tester introduced “S.522 - A bill to establish a 5-year ban on individuals appointed to Executive

Schedule positions and Members of Congress engaging in lobbying activities at the Federal level.” [Overview, S. 522, Congress.Gov, [3/2/17](#)]

- **Jon Tester: “Draining The Swamp In Washington Is One Of The Issues Where The President And I Agree.”** [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS TAKEN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN TRIPS PAID FOR BY OUTSIDE GROUP AND VOTED TO LET LOBBYISTS TO PAY FOR HIS TRAVEL

MATT ROSENDALE RAISED THOUSANDS FROM THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND FLEW ALL OVER THE COUNTRY PAID BY AN OUTSIDE GROUP WHERE HE RUBBED ELBOWS WITH INSURANCE EXECUTIVES AND LOBBYISTS

2017-2018: Center for Responsive Politics: Matt Rosendale Raised \$22,550 From The Insurance Industry During His Senate Campaign. [Montana Senate Race, Center for Responsive Politics, accessed [6/22/18](#)]

12/2016 – 8/2017: National Association Of Insurance Commissioners Spent Nearly \$10,000 On “Travel Expenses” For Matt Rosendale.

Travel Expenses for Commissioner Matthew Rosendale
As of August 31, 2017

Paid by NAIC

Date	Destination	Purpose	Ground		Change		Hotel	Meals	Misc.	Total
			Transport	Airfare	Fees					
12/10/16-12/13/16	Miami, FL	2016 Fall National Meeting	\$ 57.11				\$ 138.43			\$ 195.54
2/9/16-2/13/16	Scottsdale, AZ	Commissioners Conference	\$ -	\$ 813.54			\$ 1,435.40	\$ 63.90		\$ 2,312.84
2/14/17-2/15/17	Oklahoma City, OK	National Tornado Summit	\$ -				\$ 453.24			\$ 453.24
4/8/17-4/11/17	Denver, CO	Spring National Meeting	\$ 55.36	\$ 579.41			\$ 1,005.20	\$ 81.00		\$ 1,720.97
5/2/17-5/4/17	Washington DC	All Commissioner DC Fly In	\$ 17.07	\$ 671.60			\$ 1,167.00			\$ 1,855.67
7/10/17-7/13/17	Madison, WI	Interim Exec Comm Mtg/Mid Yr Update	\$ -	\$ 661.60			\$ 480.08			\$ 1,091.68
8/5/17-8/8/17	Philadelphia, PA	Summer National Meeting	\$ 104.55	\$ 664.60			\$ 1,484.20			\$ 2,253.35
Totals			\$ 234.09	\$ 3,330.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,035.12	\$ 283.33	\$ -	\$ 9,883.29

[Montana Office of the State Auditor, via FOIA, as of 2/16/18]

HEADLINE: “Drinks, Junkets And Jobs: How The Insurance Industry Courts State Commissioners.” [Washington Post, [10/2/16](#)]

National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services: “There Are Only A Handful Of People Representing Consumers And Over 1,000 Insurance Lobbyists At A Typical NAIC Meeting.” [National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 11/22/10]

- **National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services: “Industry Lobbyists Outnumber Consumer Advocates At NAIC Meetings By An Order Of Magnitude.”** [National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 11/22/10]

Consumer Watchdog President Jamie Court: NAIC Conferences “Provide Easy Access” To Insurance Commissioners For Insurance Industry And Officials And Lobbyists: “They Can Be Cozy.” “I’ve never seen anything like this,” said Jamie Court, president and chairman of Consumer Watchdog, a California group focused on the insurance industry. He said National Association of Insurance Commissioners conferences he has attended were packed with industry officials and lobbyists, which can make it even more important to see how public insurance regulators spend money attending the events. ‘They can be cozy,’ Court said. ‘The insurance industry is well represented at these things, and it provides easy access’ to insurance commissioners.” [Tampa Tribune, [2/15/15](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED TO REVIVE “SPECIAL ACCOUNTS” FOR LEGISLATORS THAT WOULD LET HIM RAISE MONEY FROM LOBBYISTS FOR HIS TRAVEL

HEADLINE: “Montana Senate Endorses Reviving Constituent Accounts.” [Associated Press, [2/27/13](#)]

Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Voted To Revive “Special Accounts” For State Legislators To Raise Money For Their Travel Costs, Even Though Previous Legislatures Had Cracked Down On The Accounts Due To Lobbyist Abuse. On February 27, 2013, Matt Rosendale voted in favor of SB 241. The Associated Press reported: “The Montana Senate is backing a measure to revive special accounts state

legislators could use for costs associated with the job. Senate Bill 241 was advanced Wednesday with a 30-20 vote. Sen. John Brenden of Scobey said lawmakers now must spend money out of their own pockets to visit constituents and attend meetings. He argued lawmakers should be allowed to raise money to pay for such travel. The so-called 'constituent account' has been dormant ever since the Legislature cracked down on perceived abuses in 2007. At the time, state officials were raising thousands in unregulated money from lobbyists and others with no oversight." The measure was passed by a vote of 29-21. [Vote 751, SB 241, [2/27/13](#)]

- State Sen. Anders Blewett: "What This Would Do Is Allow Fundraising While We Are Here, i.e. Those People Out In The Hallways Would Be Opening Checkbooks And Writing Checks."** "What this would do is allow fundraising while we are here, i.e. those people out in the hallways would be opening checkbooks and writing checks,' Democrat Sen. Anders Blewett, of Great Falls, said of the potential for lobbyist money to flow into lawmakers' pockets. Senators from urban districts also opposed the bill, arguing that it favored legislators from rural districts because they represent more counties and could raise more money." [Associated Press, [2/27/13](#)]

VO: Tester said:

TESTER: I wanna be clear. All farms and ranches, I'd like to see exempt from inheritance tax

VO: Then he voted to keep the death tax eight times.

ON SCREEN: VOTED TO KEEP THE DEATH TAX 8 TIMES

Citation: Roll call votes 114, 67, 251, 276, 274, 213, 173, and 38

DARK MONEY GROUP EDITED VIDEO TO REMOVE JON TESTER CALLING FOR WORKING FAMILY FARMS AND RANCHES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM ESTATE TAX

Jon Tester: "All Farms And Ranches And Small Businesses Domiciled Here, I'd Like To See Exempt From Inheritance Tax, And That's Why I Support A \$5 Million Exemption Per Person, \$10 Million Per Couples. That Will Exempt Many If Not All Small Businesses And Farms In This State." TESTER: "Next? Sorry. Okay. I want to be clear. All farms and ranches and small businesses domiciled here, I'd like to see exempt from inheritance tax, and that's why I support a \$5 million exemption per person, \$10 million per couples. That will exempt many if not all small businesses and farms in this state, and that's without doing any planning whatsoever. Look, I inherited—Sharla and I inherited the farm from our folks. My mom—my dad passed away in 04, my mom passed away in 09, with far less exemption than that. And they worked hard, and they started planning. We paid not one penny in inheritance tax because they planned for the future. \$5 million and \$10 million is a reasonable figure that exempts 99.9% of the small businesses and farms and ranches in this state. It doesn't offload the additional tax burden on to the middle class." [Montana U.S. Senate Debate, Kalispell, MT, 10/14/12]

DARK MONEY GROUP USED ATTACK AGAINST JON TESTER THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DEBUNKED BY NONPARTISAN FACT CHECKERS

Billings Gazette Fact Check: Claim That Jon Tester Voted To Increase The Estate Tax In 2010 Was "Essentially False." "He voted to increase the death tax.' Essentially false. Tester voted in 2011 to set the federal inheritance tax, or 'death tax,' as it's called by opponents, at 35 percent on inheritances over \$10 million for couples. Any inheritance under \$5 million per person is exempt from taxation. Under the Bush tax cuts, the rate had gone to zero in 2010 but was set to revert in 2011 to 50 percent on any inheritances over \$2 million per couple. Tester voted to set it at the lower tax rate and higher exemption." [Billings Gazette, [11/2/12](#)]

PolitiFact: Claim That Voting For Compromise 2010 Estate Tax Fix Setting A \$5 Million Exemption And 35 Percent Rate Amounted To Raising The Estate Tax Was "Mostly False" Because Without A Deal "The Estate Tax Would Have Automatically Jumped Much Higher." "While most of the national debate has focused on the payroll tax provisions, the compromise plan also sets new policy on the estate tax (often called the 'death tax' by opponents like DeMint). Specifically, the plan would impose a 35 percent estate tax rate, with an effective exemption of \$5 million. DeMint's comment that the compromise 'raises the death tax' might seem like a pretty straightforward claim. It either does or it doesn't, right?... People often weigh a tax change relative to today's reality. So in that sense, it could be considered a tax increase compared to the anomaly of 2010. But the compromise tax plan is actually considered by many a win for Republicans, because the estate tax would have automatically jumped

much higher -- to 55 percent on the value of estates over \$1 million -- if no deal were reached. And it's less than the 45 percent rate on the value of estates over \$3.5 million in effect in 2009 and which House Democrats proposed to make permanent last year. So we rate DeMint's claim Barely True. Editor's note: This statement was rated Barely True when it was published. On July 27, 2011, we changed the name for the rating to Mostly False." [PolitiFact, [12/13/10](#); CQ, [12/15/10](#); H.R. 4853, Vote 276, [12/15/10](#)]

DARK MONEY GROUP CITED VOTES THAT SHOW JON TESTER FIGHTING TO DEFEND MONTANA FARMERS AND RANCHERS FROM ESTATE TAX

2013 VOTE CITED BY DARK MONEY GROUP WAS TO PREVENT THE ESTATE TAX FROM INCREASING ON MONTANA FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HEADLINE: "Farm Bill Extension, Estate Tax Fix Boosts Farmers, Ranchers."
[Billings Gazette, [1/2/13](#)]

2013: Jon Tester Voted For Fiscal Cliff Deal That Made Permanent A \$5 Million Individual Estate Tax Exemption And Indexed It To Inflation, Allowing It To Increase To \$7.5 Million By 2023. On January 1, 2013, Jon Tester voted to pass H.R. 8. The Billings Gazette reported: "The other major issue for farm country was the permanent setting of estate tax rules. Estate taxes have been adjusted downward at least six times since 2001, but always with the possibility of increasing as lawmakers continually placed sunset provisions on their cuts...The terms agreed to in the fiscal-cliff package ensure that moving forward estate taxes won't be collected on inheritances of \$5 million or less. Husbands and wives can pair the individual exemptions to prevent estate taxes on inheritances as large as \$10 million. The exemption is also indexed for inflation, meaning that by the end of the decade the individual exemption rises to \$7.5 million." The measure was passed by a vote of 89-8. [Vote 251, H.R. 8, [1/1/13](#); Billings Gazette, [1/2/13](#)]

- **New York Times: Jon Tester "Would Not Go Along With" President Obama's Proposal To Return The Estate Tax To Its 2009 Level, Exempting Inheritances Up To \$3.5 Million At A 45 Percent Rate.** "President Obama has suggested taking the estate tax back to where it was in 2009. That represents a middle ground, exempting inheritances up to \$3.5 million (\$7 million from a couple) and taxing the remainder at up to 45 percent. The Senate in July passed legislation that would extend Bush-era tax cuts for incomes under \$250,000, and Democrats, as well as some Republicans, are pressing the House to simply take up that bill, pass it, and send it to President Obama. But the Senate bill is silent on the estate tax. In July, some Democratic senators facing tough re-election fights, like Jon Tester of Montana and Claire McCaskill of Missouri, would not go along with the president's proposal." [New York Times, [12/17/12](#)]

MONTANA AGRICULTURE GROUPS SUPPORTED BUDGET PROVISION MAKING PERMANENT THE ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION AND INDEXING IT TO INFLATION

Montana Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Thanked Jon Tester For His Efforts To Keep The Estate Tax Exemption At More Than \$5 Million. "John Youngberg, vice president of government affairs for the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, agreed. He said the lower estate tax threshold could have impacted an estimated 9,260 Montana farms and ranches, or close to half the agricultural operations that make a majority of their income from farming or ranching. 'Farmers and ranchers are cash poor and land rich, especially with growing land values,' he said. 'I know people who live frugally but have farms and ranches worth \$5 million and up. A \$1 million estate exemption would have made it extremely difficult for their families to pay estate taxes and continue agricultural producing.' Youngberg thanked Montana Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester for their efforts to keep the estate exemption at the higher level." [Great Falls Tribune, 1/2/13]

Montana Stockgrowers Association Vice President: "The Certainly Of The \$5 Million Per Person, The \$10 Million Per Couple Is Very Significant." "Farmers and ranchers said the rule changes on Jan. 1 would have made it impossible to pass family

property to the next generation without selling off a significant portion to pay the tax man... 'The certainty of the \$5 million per person, the \$10 million per couple is very significant. We wanted to keep the rate at 35 percent. It got bumped up to 40, but I think it's a good trade-off,' said Erol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers Association executive vice president." [Billings Gazette, [1/2/13](#)]

Great Falls Tribune: "Montana Financial Advisers And Farm Groups Strongly Supported The Provision Of The Budget Compromise That Retained The Estate Exemption From The Bush Tax Cuts At \$5 Million." "On the other hand, Montana financial advisers and farm groups strongly supported the provision of the budget compromise that retained the estate exemption from the Bush tax cuts at \$5 million rather than trimming the exemption to \$1 million. The compromise did, however, raise the tax rate on estate property above that \$5 million threshold from 35 to 40 percent. 'Keeping that higher estate exemption was a huge issue for our farm and ranch base and many of our small business clients,' Vuckovich said. 'It doesn't take much to accumulate assets of more than \$1 million these days.'" [Great Falls Tribune, 1/3/13]

2009 VOTE CITED BY DARK MONEY GROUP WAS ADOPTED AFTER JON TESTER FOUGHT TO CUT THE ESTATE TAX AND RAISE THE EXEMPTION

April 2009: Jon Tester Voted To Establish An Estate Tax Exemption Level Of \$5 Million, Indexed For Inflation, And A Maximum Estate Tax Rate Of 35 Percent. On April 2, 2009, Jon Tester voted in favor of "Lincoln, D-Ark., amendment no. 873 that would allow a deficit-neutral increase in the discretionary spending cap to pay for the impact of any legislation that would establish an estate tax exemption level of \$5 million, indexed for inflation, a maximum estate tax rate of 35 percent, a reunification of the estate and gift credits, and portability of exemption between spouses." The amendment was adopted by a vote of 51-48. [CQ, [4/2/09](#); S.Amdt. 873 to S.Con.Res. 13, Vote 146, [4/2/09](#)]

- **Jon Tester Voted For Estate Tax Cut To Raise The Exemption To \$5 Million And Cut The Top Rate From 45 Percent To 35 Percent.** "The Lincoln-Kyl tax cut would raise the estate-tax exemption to \$10 million per couple (\$5 million for singles) and, in an even bigger giveaway to the superrich, lower the top rate from 45 percent to 35 percent. That sure would enrich the heirs of America's biggest fortunes. It would not jump-start job creation on Main Street. In addition to Ms. Lincoln, other Democratic senators voting for the estate tax cut were Max Baucus and Jon Tester of Montana, Evan Bayh of Indiana, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray of Washington, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Bill Nelson of Florida and Mark Pryor of Arkansas." [Editorial, New York Times, [4/7/09](#)]

April 2009: Jon Tester Voted To Adopt Conference Report On Budget Resolution That Assumed Permanent Extension Of 2009 Estate Tax Levels. On April 29, 2009, Jon Tester voted in favor of "Adoption of the conference report on the concurrent resolution that would allow up to \$1.086 trillion in non-emergency discretionary spending for fiscal 2010, plus \$130 billion in fiscal 2010 for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would assume \$764 billion in tax cuts over five years, including an extension of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for households earning less than \$250,000 annually, a three-year adjustment to prevent additional taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax and a permanent extension of the 2009 estate tax levels. It includes reconciliation instructions to House and Senate committees to report a total of \$2 billion in savings, presumably from health care and student loan programs, by Oct. 15. It would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund for health care and climate change legislation." The conference report was adopted by a vote of 53-43. [CQ, [4/29/09](#); Vote 173, S. Con. Res. 13, [4/29/09](#)]

- **AALU: 2009 Budget Estate Tax Provision Would "Only Freeze The Exemption And Rate At 2009 Levels, Nothing More."** "In addition, the estate tax provision now in the budget resolution would 'only freeze the exemption and rate at 2009 levels, nothing more,' the AALU says. The budget resolution provision does not include reunification and portability, the AALU says." [National Underwriter Life & Health/Financial Services, 4/30/09]

JON TESTER HAS CONSISTENTLY PUSHED TO PROTECT MONTANA FAMILY FARMERS AND RANCHERS FROM THE ESTATE TAX

2016: JON TESTER URGED OBAMA TREASURY TO ENSURE ITS PROPOSED ESTATE TAX CHANGES DID NOT RAISE TAXES ON FARMS AND RANCHES

HEADLINE: “Treasury To Close Estate Tax Valuation Discounts Loophole, Family Businesses Cry Foul.” [Forbes, [8/3/16](#)]

HEADLINE: “Farmers Urged To Fight Against IRS Proposal On Estate Taxes.” [Michigan Farm News, [10/12/16](#)]

2016: Jon Tester Urged Treasury Secretary Jack Lew To Ensure Proposed Regulatory Changes To The Estate Tax Did Not “Unintentionally Raise Taxes On Family Farms And Ranches.” “Dear Secretary Lew: I am a strong proponent of reforming our tax code to ensure that it works for middle-class families, small businesses, family farms and ranches...That is why I would encourage the Treasury Department to ensure that its August 4, 2016 proposed regulation, on changes to the estate tax and minority discount rules (REG-163113-02), does not unintentionally harm family farms and ranches. For over two decades, family owned farms and ranches have used valuation discounts under current Treasury regulations to help pass down working businesses to future generations without having to face the estate tax. Unlike many other businesses and estates, working farms and ranches often have to make difficult decisions particularly as it relates to land and liquid capital and these minority discount rules have helped ease potential burdens. Historically, these valuation discounts have been allowed, due to the fact that the minority stakes in these businesses do not come with the same decision making authority as the majority shareholder. These minority shares also often come with prohibitions which prevent the shares from being sold, thus decreasing their value. As Treasury continues to work through proposed regulations, I strongly encourage you to ensure that you don’t unintentionally raise taxes on family farms and ranches, which would be a significant blow to businesses who have historically been transferred from one generation to the next.” [Letter to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, [11/17/16](#)]

2010: JON TESTER BACKED PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDED ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION FOR WORKING FAMILY FARMS AND RANCHES

HEADLINE: “Tester Votes for Estate Tax Exemption on Working Farms and Ranches.” [Office of Sen. Jon Tester, Press Release, [12/4/10](#)]

12/4/10: Jon Tester Voted To Invoke Cloture On An Amendment Making Bush Tax Cuts Permanent On Income Up To \$200,000 For Individuals And \$250,000 For Married Couples. On December 4, 2010, Jon Tester voted in favor of “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with a further Baucus, D-Mont., substitute amendment no. 4727 that would make permanent the 2001- and 2003-enacted tax cuts on income up to \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples filing joint returns. The extensions would include current lower tax rates for capital gains and dividends, elimination of the ‘marriage penalty’ and an expansion of the increased child tax credit. It also would extend unemployment insurance benefits for 13 months.” The motion was rejected by a vote of 53-36. [CQ, [12/4/10](#); S. Amdt. 4727 to H.R. 4853, Vote 258, [12/4/10](#)]

- **Baucus Amendment Included Provision Excluding Farmland From The Estate Tax So Long As Farmland Use By The Family Continued.** “SA 4727. Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. Reid (for himself, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Kerry, Mr. Carper, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Schumer, and Mr. Menendez)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4853, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes; as follows: SEC. 305. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS ESTATE OF

CERTAIN FARMLAND SO LONG AS FARMLAND USE BY FAMILY CONTINUES. (a) In General.--Part III of subchapter A of chapter 11 is amended by inserting after section 2033 the following new section: `SEC. 2033A. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FARMLAND SO LONG AS FARMLAND USE BY FAMILY CONTINUES.` [Text, S. Amdt. 4727 to H.R. 4853, Library of Congress, [12/2/10](#)]

Missouliau: “Tester...Supported A Proposal In The U.S. Senate To Exempt Working Farms And Ranches From The Federal Inheritance Tax.” “Both Tester and Baucus also have supported a proposal in the U.S. Senate to exempt working farms and ranches from the federal inheritance tax. The Obama package exempts from federal taxation the first \$5 million of inheritance income for singles and \$10 million for couples. Once an inheritance reaches that amount, the tax would be 35 percent.” [Missouliau, [12/9/10](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE BACKED DEBT-BUSTING TAX PLAN, DISMISSED FARMERS SUFFERING UNDER TARIFFS, AND VOTED FOR ANTI-FARMER LAND RULES

MATT ROSENDALE SUPPORTED TAX BILL THAT WILL BALLOON THE NATIONAL DEBT BY MORE THAN \$1.5 TRILLION AND ENRICH CORPORATE EXECUTIVES

HEADLINE: “Final Tax Bill Could End Up Costing \$2.2 Trillion.” [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, [12/18/17](#)]

University Of Pennsylvania Study: Republican Tax Plan “Increases Debt By Between \$1.9 Trillion To \$2.2 Trillion Over The Next Decade.” “This brief reports Penn Wharton Budget Model’s (PWBM) static and dynamic analysis of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), reported by the conference committee on December 15, 2017. The TCJA increases debt by between \$1.9 trillion to \$2.2 trillion over the next decade.” [Penn Wharton Budget Model, University of Pennsylvania, [12/15/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tax Cut Scoreboard: Workers \$6 Billion; Shareholders \$171 Billion.” [CNN, [2/16/18](#)]

HEADLINE: “What Did Corporate America Do With That Tax Break? Buy Record Amounts Of Its Own Stock.” [NBC News, [6/26/18](#)]

Fortune: Republican Tax Bill Cut Income Tax Rates “For The Richest Americans.” [Fortune, [12/16/17](#)]

Washington Post: Final Republican Tax Plan Included “A New Tax Cut For The Rich” That Amounted To “A Significant Tax Break For The Very Wealthy.” [Washington Post, [12/15/17](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE: FARMERS SUFFERING UNDER TRADE WAR WAS “ALL PART OF THIS NEGOTIATION PROCESS

HEADLINE: “U.S.-China Trade War Will Complicate Montana Farmers’ Plans To Grow Wheat Sales.” [Billings Gazette, [4/12/18](#)]

HEADLINE: “Chinese Tariff Threat Puts Montana Beef Deal At Risk.” [Great Falls Tribune, [4/7/18](#)]

Matt Rosendale: Fact That “Farmers Will Suffer” Short-Term Under Tariff Policies Was “All Part Of This Negotiation Process.” REPORTER: “While the President works for those long-term deals, short term, those farmers will suffer. If you get elected, what could you do for them?” ROSENDALE: “Again, that is all part of this negotiation process.” [Balance Of Power, Bloomberg TV, 7/23/18] (VIDEO)

- **Montana Wheat Farmer Gordon Stoner: “Rosendale’s Unwillingness To Stand Up To These Tariffs On China Doesn’t Jive With The Opinion Of Any Montana Farmer Or Rancher I Know.”** “Matt Rosendale, who is running this year for U.S. Senate in Montana, says he is a rancher himself. But Rosendale’s unwillingness to

	<p>stand up to these tariffs on China doesn't jive with the opinion of any Montana farmer or rancher I know." [Gordon Stoner, Billings Gazette, 4/26/18]</p> <p>Farm Groups “Forecast Millions Of Dollars In Lost Wheat Sales Coupled With Higher Prices For Grain Bins And Other Steel Products” As A Result Of Tariffs. “Meeting with U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in Billings, representatives from farm groups forecast millions of dollars in lost wheat sales coupled with higher prices for grain bins and other steel products. Other participants warned of higher construction costs, including a six-figure increase for the new Missoula Public Library.” [Billings Gazette, 7/6/18]</p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE BACKED PRO-DEVELOPER, ANTI-FARMING LAND RULES</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: “Subdivision Bill Bad For Farmers, Ranchers.” [Stephanie LaPorte, Missoulian, 3/14/11]</p> <p>HEADLINE: “House Endorses Pro-Development Rewrite Of Subdivision Laws.” [Billings Gazette, 2/22/11]</p> <p>Matt Rosendale Voted For And Spoke In Support Of A “Pro-Developer” Change To Montana Subdivision Review Laws That Would Restrict How Planners Could Consider A Development’s Impacts On Agriculture Or Future Land Use. On April 2, 2011, Matt Rosendale voted for HB542. “The Montana House on Tuesday endorsed a bill making pro-developer changes in Montana's subdivision review laws to restrict how planners can consider a housing development's impacts on agriculture or future land use. [...] Rep. Matt Rosendale, R-Glendive, himself a real estate developer, said the bill's requirement of peer-reviewed material to support government comments prevents those entities from making ‘arbitrary and subjective comments.’ The bill ‘clarifies procedures that agencies must follow to protect private property rights and consistency in the process,’ he said.” [Vote 1516, HB 542, 4/2/11; Billings Gazette, 2/22/11]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billings Gazette: “Opponents...Said HB542 Is A ‘Fundamental Change’ In State Law, Which Is Meant To Protect And Preserve Agricultural Land In The Face Of Urban And Suburban Development.” “Opponents, however, said HB542 is a ‘fundamental change’ in state law, which is meant to protect and preserve agricultural land in the face of urban and suburban development.” [Billings Gazette, 2/22/11]
<p>VO: Tester said:</p> <p>TESTER: Quite frankly, I don't support earmarks period.</p> <p>VO: And then voted nine times to keep earmarks.</p> <p>ON SCREEN: VOTED 9 TIMES TO KEEP EARMARKS</p> <p>Citation: Roll call votes 8, 225, 60, 105, 80, 79, 46, 34, and 75</p> <p>VO: 12 years in Washington sure has changed Jon Tester.</p> <p>ON SCREEN: 12 YEARS IN WASHINGTON SURE HAS</p>	<p><u>DARK MONEY GROUP AGAIN INCORRECTLY CITED VOTE TO EXTEND MEDICAID ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND FUNDING TO CREATE TEACHER JOBS</u></p> <p>2010: Jon Tester Voted Aye On Vote 225, To Extend Increased Medicaid Assistance To States And Provide Funding For States To Create Or Retain Teacher Jobs. On August 4, 2010, Jon Tester voted in favor of “Murray, D-Wash., motion to waive the Budget Act and budget resolutions with respect to the Gregg, R-N.H., point of order against the Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with a further Murray substitute amendment no. 4575 that would provide \$16.1 billion to extend increased Medicaid assistance to states and \$10 billion in funding for states to create or retain teachers' jobs.” The motion was agreed to by a vote of 61-38. [Vote 225, S. Amdt. 4575 to H.R. 1586, 8/4/10; CQ, 8/4/10]</p> <p><u>DARK MONEY GROUP CLIP EXCLUDES JON TESTER ARGUING FOR ENDING SECRET EARMARKS, WHICH HE LATER VOTED TO PUT INTO ACTION</u></p> <p>Jon Tester Criticized “The Current Process Of Earmarks In The Middle Of The Night,” Called For Any Earmarks To Be Done With “The Transparency That Our Government And Forefathers Set Up For This Country.” TESTER: “Well the fact is that the current process of earmarks in the middle of the night, without the transparency of the people of this great country, is the wrong way for a representative democracy to be working. Projects—and Montana has some great facilities, this being the premier one, our land grant university—for doing research. Those research projects can stand up to the scrutiny of the light of day. And frankly, I don't support earmarks period. If a project is</p>

CHANGED JON TESTER
#DefeatTester

ON SCREEN/VO: Senate
Reform Fund financial
disclaimer

a good project, and we have many in Montana, probably many if not all of these thirty-four, they would withstand the scrutiny of funding in front of the entire body and of the full senate and house. So to directly answer your question: I am not for earmarks because they don't pass the scrutiny of the public, because they are not done in front of the transparency that our government and fore-fathers set up for this country." [Montana U.S. Senate Debate, Bozeman, MT, 10/9/06]

HEADLINE: "Senate Votes To End Secret 'Earmarks.'" [CNN, [1/17/07](#)]

Tester Voted To Require Disclosure Of Earmarks 48 Hours Prior To Consideration Of Bill, Mandate Disclosure Of Earmark Recipients And Define Earmarkcs As Federal And Non-Federal Projects. On January 16, 2007, Senator Tester voted for "DeMint, R-S.C., amendment no. 11 to the Reid, D-Nev., substitute amendment no. 3. The DeMint amendment would require the disclosure of earmark sponsors 48 hours prior to the consideration of a bill, mandate the disclosure of earmark recipients and expand the definition of earmarks to include federal and non-federal projects. The substitute amendment would overhaul congressional lobbying and ethics rules for senators and their staffs and restrict the use of and expand the definition of earmarks. It would prohibit senators and staff from accepting gifts and free meals, extend the time period before former senators can become lobbyists, prohibit lobbyist-funded travel and require trips funded by other private entities to be vetted by the Select Ethics Committee." The amendment was adopted by a vote of 98-0. [CQ, [1/16/07](#); Vote 11, S.Amdt. 11 to S.Amdt. 3 to S. 1, [1/16/07](#)]

- **CNN: "The Days Of Lawmakers Slipping Pet Projects Into Spending Bills At The Last Minute Are Ending After The Senate Approved A New Rule Tuesday Forcing Members To Disclose Requests For Those 'Earmarks.'" [CNN, [1/17/07](#)]**

JON TESTER HAS CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT AGAINST WASTEFUL SPENDING IN CONGRESS AND THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

JON TESTER HAS RETURNED OVER \$3 MILLION FROM HIS BUDGET

FY2007-FY2017: Jon Tester Returned Over \$3 Million In Unspent Taxpayer Funds Allocated For His Office – 10.32 Percent Of His Budgeted Funds. [Report of the Secretary of the Senate, 2007-2018]

JON TESTER AUTHORED BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP TO DRAIN THE SWAMP AND EXPOSE GOVERNMENT WASTE AND ABUSE

HEADLINE: "Congress...Expands Watchdog Powers." [NextGov, [1/20/17](#)]

Roll Call: Jon Tester "Originally Authored" And Voted For The GAO Access And Oversight Act, Signed Into Law By President Trump. On January 3, 2017, Jon Tester was an original cosponsor of S. 17. Roll Call reported: "Although all eyes will be on the committee hearing rooms, the Senate will kick off the week with a 4:45 p.m. vote on the GAO Access and Oversight Act of 2017. Nebraska Republican Sen. Ben Sasse and Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester originally authored the legislation, which passed the House on Jan. 4. The bill would allow the Government Accountability Office to access federal records and audit programs, including giving the GAO standing in court to require agencies to provide records." [Roll Call, [1/17/17](#); S. 17, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [1/3/17](#); Public Law 115-3, H.R. 72, [1/31/17](#); CQ, [1/17/17](#); H.R. 72, Vote 28, [1/17/17](#)]

- **Trump Administration: GAO Access And Oversight Act Was Part Of President Trump's Efforts Towards "Draining The Swamp."** "DRAINING THE SWAMP: President Trump used the power of his office to promote government transparency, preventing lobbying influence, and limiting regulatory overreach...On Tuesday, President Trump signed into law the 'GAO Access And Oversight Act Of 2017' (H.R.72) allowing the Government Accountability Office to gather records from all

federal agencies so it can be more responsive to civil action.” [News Release, White House, [2/4/17](#)]

- **E&E News: GAO Access And Oversight Act “Would Strengthen The Federal Government’s Top Watchdog.”** “The Senate is scheduled to vote on legislation today that would strengthen the federal government’s top watchdog. Leaders are holding a roll call vote on Georgia Republican Rep. Buddy Carter’s H.R. 72, the ‘GAO Access and Oversight Act of 2017.’ The bill would allow the Government Accountability Office to take civil action against agencies to obtain records. In addition, it would give GAO access to a federal database of new hires. The House passed the bill by voice vote during this Congress’ first week in session (E&E News PM, Jan. 4). Carter offered the proposal last year, only to see it pass the lower chamber but move no further.” [E&E Daily, 1/17/17]

JON TESTER SUCCESSFULLY KILLED AUTOMATIC PAY RAISE FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS AND NEARLY HALVED THEIR MAXIMUM PAY

HEADLINE: “Senators Reverse Automatic Bump In Contractor Pay.” [Stars & Stripes, [12/17/13](#)]

Stars & Stripes: Jon Tester Was Part Of A Bipartisan Group That “Stepped In” And Not Only Killed A Scheduled Pay Raise For Top Government Contractors, But Cut The Maximum Billable Pay For Individual Contractors “Almost In Half.” “President Barack Obama makes \$400,000 a year. The highest-earning DOD contractor makes almost twice that — and was set to get a raise before four senators stepped in. A quiet public notice from the Obama administration, dated Dec. 5, would increase the maximum billable pay for an individual worker from \$763,029 to \$952,308. Four senators thought that was beyond reasonable. So in the surprise Ryan-Murray budget deal announced Dec. 10, a provision kills that pay raise for top-earning government contractors and cuts those caps almost in half. Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., had been sharply critical of news that the increase was being put into effect for federal contractors and applied retroactively to January 2012.” [Stars & Stripes, [12/17/13](#)]

- **Stars & Stripes: Jon Tester Was Part Of A Bipartisan Group That “Won A Provision” In Budget Deal To Cut Maximum Amount Payable To Federal Contractors From \$763,029 To \$487,000.** “Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., had been sharply critical of news that the increase was being put into effect for federal contractors and applied retroactively to January 2012. The senators won a provision in the two-year budget deal announced by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., that would instead lower the cap from \$763,029 to \$487,000. The House passed the budget Friday; Senate leaders have scheduled votes on the budget deal this week, with its passage all but certain. In a statement, the four had said that without congressional action ‘in the interest of fiscal responsibility and fairness,’ the compensation ceiling was on track to climb to \$1.6 million by the 2020 fiscal year. Boxer and Grassley led the effort to undo the change.” [Stars & Stripes, [12/17/13](#)]

JON TESTER COSPONSORED BIPARTISAN LAWS THAT TOUGHENED OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL AGENCY PURCHASE CARDS AFTER REPORTS THEY HAD BEEN USED TO GAMBLE AND VISIT STRIP CLUBS

HEADLINE: “Bipartisan Bill Hones In On Feds Abusing Agency Charge Cards.” [Federal Times, [5/15/17](#)]

Jon Tester Cosponsored Measure To Curb Credit Card Abuse By Federal Agency Employees And Help Spot Fraud Was Signed Into Law. On June 7, 2017, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 1099, the Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use Of Government Purchase And Travel Cards Act. The Federal Times reported: “The legislation would help curb charge card abuse by requiring agencies to strengthen accountability and oversight over purchases. Specifically, the bill directs the General Services Administration to

review its database of charge card purchases to identify patterns of misuse that could be shared with agencies to assist in their efforts to spot fraud. Additionally, information sharing policies and best practices would be established to help agencies exchange information on fraud schemes and high-risk sellers. And all information analyzed would support strategic sourcing initiatives that could minimize the times purchase cards were used for numerous amounts of an item and promote more federal purchasing power and negotiated discounts.” [S. 1099, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [6/7/17](#); Federal Times, [5/15/17](#); Public Law 115-91, [12/12/17](#)]

- **Radio Iowa: Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use Of Government Purchase And Travel Cards Act Was “Designed To Crack Down On Waste, Fraud, And Abuse In Federal Spending” And “Strengthen Accountability And Oversight.”** “A bill cosponsored by Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley that’s designed to crack down on waste, fraud and abuse in federal spending has cleared the U.S. Senate and heads next to the House. Grassley, a Republican, says the bill targets the use of travel and purchase cards by federal workers. Grassley says, ‘This goes back to investigations I’ve conducted mostly with the Defense Department but it also includes a lot of other agencies as well.’ He says the bill would help prevent charge card misuse and abuse by requiring agencies to take a series of steps to strengthen accountability and oversight...The legislation is called: The Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use of Government Purchase and Travel Cards Act.” [Radio Iowa, [8/8/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Congress Clears Bill Cracking Down On Purchase Card Abuse.” [Government Executive, [9/25/12](#)]

Government Executive: Bipartisan Jon Tester-Cosponsored Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act Was Signed Into Law, “Toughen[ing] Oversight Of Agency Purchasing Cards.” On March 17, 2011, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 300, the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012. Government Executive reported: “In the waning hours of its session, Congress on Saturday passed a bill to toughen oversight of agency purchasing cards, codifying new penalties on federal employees who abuse the cards. The Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act resurfaced abruptly, having been introduced in February 2011 by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, long before the Obama administration began its focused effort to cut waste in agency operations. It cleared the House in July with an amendment requiring Senate approval.” The measure was signed into law on October 5, 2012. [S. 300, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/17/11](#); Public Law 112-194, [10/5/12](#); Government Executive, [9/25/12](#)]

- **Federal Employees Had Used Agency Credit Cards To Gamble, Buy Jewelry, And Visit Strip Clubs And Brothels.** “Grassley noted employees have used agency purchase and travel cards to buy kitchen appliances, jewelry, gambling excursions, cruises and visits to strip clubs and legalized brothels. The agencies that were put under the ‘spotlight’ for abuse of the cards, he said, were the Defense and Housing and Urban Development departments, as well as the Forest Service and the Federal Aviation Administration. The bill requires agencies that issue credit cards and convenience checks to, among other actions, improve record-keeping; train employees in use of the cards; perform credit checks on employees issued cards; require prompt payments to avoid interest charges; invalidate cards for employees who depart the agency; and conduct periodic reviews of which employees should be issued the cards.” [Government Executive, [9/25/12](#)]