

MATT ROSENDALE – “TRASH”

OVERVIEW

- Matt Rosendale is a career political opportunist who started off his campaign with an outright lie about Jon Tester's record, so it's not surprising he failed to mention his campaign is propped up by dark money outside groups lying about Jon and using a “legal form of money laundering” to circumvent campaign finance limits.
- Jon Tester has led by example in making Washington more accountable to Montana, returning over \$3 million from his office budget, becoming the first Senator to post his schedule online so Montanans could see what he was up to, and fighting to crack down on government waste, including a law praised by the Trump Administration for helping “drain the swamp.”
- Matt Rosendale is a multimillionaire east coast real estate developer who moved to Montana after buying a \$2 million trophy ranch that he doesn't even ranch himself, and whose only experience with Montana agriculture is turning farmland into real estate developments.
- Jon Tester, the only active farmer in the Senate, still farms the land homesteaded by his family more than 100 years ago, and has fought tirelessly to crack down on perks for Members of Congress, from fighting to eliminate automatic pay raises to passing laws banning gifts from lobbyists, insider trading by Congress, and taxpayer-funded oil paintings for Members of Congress.

CLAIM

ROSENDALE: More trash from Jon Tester's Washington. Hides his record, trashes the other guy.

But with 30 years in politics, and 12 in the Senate, Tester's learned to make Washington work for him.

ONSCREEN: TESTER MAKES WASHINGTON WORK... FOR HIM

FACTS

MATT ROSENDALE IS A POLITICAL OPPORTUNIST WHOSE CAMPAIGN IS PROPPED UP BY DARK MONEY AND SKIRTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LIMITS

MATT ROSENDALE MOVED TO MONTANA TO START A POLITICAL CAREER, AND HAS RUN FOR HIGHER OFFICE FIVE TIMES IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Was Attacked By His Republican Primary Opponent As A “Political Opportunist Seeking His Fifth Elected Office In Eight Years.” “Retired Judge Russ Fagg attacked Rosendale in hopes of chipping away at his front-runner status, calling him a ‘weak candidate’ and political opportunist seeking his fifth elected office in eight years. Fagg also said out-of-state groups were trying to buy the election for Rosendale, calling him an East Coaster with different values from Montana residents. He said Wednesday that he will support Rosendale.” [Associated Press, [6/6/18](#)]

- **Former Republican Statewide Elected Officials Marc Racicot, Stan Stephens, Denny Rehberg, And Rick Hill: “Montanans Deserve More Than A U.S. Senator Who Puts The Party Agenda And Endorsements From D.C. Insiders Above Montana.”** “As former public servants ourselves, we understand some are better suited to public service than others. While there are a number of choices on the Republican ballot for the June 5 primary, Judge Fagg stands out as the best. Montanans deserve more than a U.S. Senator whose top priority is climbing the political ladder. Montanans deserve more than a U.S. Senator who puts the party agenda and endorsements from D.C. insiders above Montana.” [Marc Racicot/Stan Stephens/Denny Rehberg/Rick Hill, Helena Independent Record, [5/28/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE LAUNCHED HIS SENATE CAMPAIGN BY LYING ABOUT JON TESTER'S RECORD, AND CONTINUES TO DO SO

PolitiFact Rated Matt Rosendale's Claim During His Campaign Launch That Jon Tester Supported A National Gun Registry “Pants On Fire,” Adding That The Claim Was “Flat Wrong” And “Absurd.” [PolitiFact, [8/21/17](#)]

PolitiFact Rated Matt Rosendale's Claim That Jon Tester Voted To Give Himself A Pay Raise “Pants On Fire,” Adding His Claim Had “No Basis” And Was “Flat Wrong.” [PolitiFact, [4/20/18](#)]

- **PolitiFact's Jason Altmire: Matt Rosendale's Claim That Jon Tester Had Voted To Give Himself A Pay Raise "Was Simply Made Up" And "Preposterous."** [Jason Altmire, PolitiFact, [4/24/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS BEEN PROPPED UP BY MILLIONS IN OUTSIDE DARK MONEY SPENDING ATTACKING JON TESTER AND BOOSTING HIM

HEADLINE: "Conservative Groups Poured Millions Into Montana's Senate Primary." [Vox, [6/6/18](#)]

Vox: Matt Rosendale, "Outside Groups' Preferred Candidate," Won The Republican Primary Backed By Millions In Outside Spending. "The millions of dollars that flowed into Montana's Senate race appears to have worked — outside groups' preferred candidate emerged victorious from Tuesday's Republican primary. State auditor Matt Rosendale, who was endorsed by three conservative US senators and backed by conservative outside groups to the tune of \$5.7 million, defeated the state's political establishment pick, retired Judge Russ Fagg. The primary determined who would take on the incumbent Democrat, Sen. Jon Tester, in a state Trump won by 20 points." [Vox, [6/6/18](#)]

- **MTN News: "Political-Action Committees Bankrolled By An Illinois Billionaire Have Spent \$1.2 Million On Radio And TV Ads In Montana, Promoting Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Matt Rosendale."** [MTN News, [4/12/18](#)]

July 2018: Dark Money Super PAC Aired Six-Figure Attack Ad Campaign Lying About Jon Tester's Record And Erroneously Giving Him Ten Fingers. "Senate Reform Fund, a dark-money group, started airing a six-figure ad this week against Sen. Jon Tester (D) that accuses him of taking 'a \$25,000 excursion to Israel with his wife' as well as voting 'to keep wasteful earmarks' and 'against repealing the death tax eight times.' The announcer closes: 'Jon Tester's lies are too big to ignore.' The super PAC, which formed June 29 and has not had to disclose its donors yet, on Thursday reported spending \$371,000 to Wisconsin-based Nonbox to place the ad on TV, radio, and digital platforms...Tester's campaign blamed state Auditor Matt Rosendale's (R) for the 'out-of-state, dark-money allies' for the ad, which dismisses as having 'erroneously and fraudulently attributes three different quotes to Tester which he did not say' as well as noting it 'attributes ten fingers to the seven-fingered farmer.'" [National Journal, [7/13/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE USED "A LEGAL FORM OF MONEY LAUNDERING" TO SKIRT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR HIS BIG DONORS

HEADLINE: "GOP Senate Hopeful Cooks Books, Skirts Donation Limits." [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

April-May 2018: Matt Rosendale Raised Debt Retirement Contributions From Eight Donors Who Had Already Contributed The Maximum Amount To His 2018 Campaign, Then Re-Loaned The Exact Same Amount To His Campaign. "In April, the Rosendale campaign began raising money explicitly for the purpose of retiring that debt. Repayment of debts incurred during previous election cycles don't count towards the \$5,400 per-donor limit for the current cycle, the rationale being that they're effectively donations to a previous campaign and won't be used to support ongoing political efforts. Nine donors stepped up in April and May to help retire the campaign's debt to Rosendale, including Rastin, Wright, Home Depot founder Bernie Marcus and his wife Wilma, veteran political consultant Roy Pfautch, and Texas oil tycoons Wayne and Gayle Laufer. Eight of the nine donors had already maxed out to the Rosendale campaign. The debt retirement contributions would've put all nine of them over the per-election limit for individual contributors had they gone towards the Rosendale campaign's 2018 coffers... But then the Rosendale campaign pulled an audacious accounting maneuver. On May 14, it used the money from those nine donors to repay \$32,831 of the debt the campaign

committee still owed to Rosendale. The very next day, Rosendale re-lent the exact same sum to the campaign.” [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

- **May-June 2018: Matt Rosendale Raised \$35,000 In 2014 Debt Retirement Funding From 14 Donors Who Contributed The Maximum Amount To His 2018 Campaign.** “During the most recent quarter, Rosendale, who is the state auditor, raised \$35,000 from 14 different donors that went toward retiring his past campaign debt from 2014. Each of the contributors had already maxed out on their contributions to the 2018 election. In all but one case, the contribution to the 2014 campaign brought the contributor's total money given this election cycle to \$8,000; in one case it brought the total to \$6,400.” [Helena Independent Record, [6/23/18](#)]

Daily Beast: Matt Rosendale’s Campaign Finance Scheme Was “A Pretty Ambitious End-Run Around Campaign Finance Laws Made Possible Only By Rosendale’s Extensive Personal Wealth.” “But with some creative accounting, it appears the the Rosendale campaign figured out a way around the limits - not only for Rastin and Wright, but for other max-out contributors to the campaign. It’s a pretty ambitious end-run around campaign finance laws made possible only by Rosendale’s extensive personal wealth.” [Daily Beast, [7/12/18](#)]

Campaign Legal Center Director Of Federal Reform Brendan Fischer: “This Is A Legal Form Of Money Laundering In Order To Help A Handful Of Wealthy Donors Get Around Federal Contribution Limits.” “‘This is a legal form of money laundering in order to help a handful of wealthy donors get around federal contribution limits,’ said Brendan Fischer, an attorney with the Campaign Legal Center, a non-partisan group focused on campaign finance, voting rights and other issues.” [Associated Press, [7/12/18](#)]

Bozeman Daily Chronicle Editorial: “Matt Rosendale May Not Be Violating The Letter Of The Law With A Bookkeeping Gimmick That Allows Donors To Exceed The Individual Cap On Campaign Contributions. But He Definitely Is Violating The Spirit Of The Law.” “Montana U.S. Senate candidate Matt Rosendale may not be violating the letter of the law with a bookkeeping gimmick that allows donors to exceed the individual cap on campaign contributions. But he definitely is violating the spirit of the law. Rosendale recently used funds left over from a previous congressional race to pay back loans he made to his campaign instead of using the money to paid down the previous campaign’s debts. He then turned around and loaned the money back to his ongoing Senate campaign. The accounting move effectively raises the individual campaign donation limit from \$5,400 to \$8,000.” [Editorial, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [7/20/18](#)]

JON TESTER HAS LED BY EXAMPLE IN FIGHTING TO MAKE WASHINGTON MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO MONTANA

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 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: “The Voters Are My Bosses...They Need To Be Able To Know What I’m Doing.” “Tester stresses that his Senate door has been open from the beginning, and he still holds four ‘unfiltered’ conference calls each month with rural Montana media outlets, to ensure they can ask ‘whatever’s on their mind.’ At least

one radio station, in Harlem, broadcasts the calls live. 'The voters are my bosses,' Tester said. 'They need to be able to know what I'm doing.'" [Missoulian, [2/22/09](#)]

- **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](#)]

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." "Tester then began posting his entire daily schedule online, as well as an archive of past schedules. It was a Senate first, 'without precedent,' staffer Aaron Murphy said, and by fall the rest of Montana's congressional delegation had followed suit. 'Tester was absolutely the head of the pack,' said Bill Buzenberg, executive director of the Washington watchdog group Center for Public Integrity. 'Give credit where credit is due - what he has done has changed the playing field.' Buzenberg calls political work 'the people's business,' adding that 'sunlight really is the great disinfectant. How can you vote in the dark, not knowing?'" [Missoulian, [2/22/09](#)]

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 INTRODUCED BILL TO IMPOSE A FIVE-YEAR LOBBYING BAN ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS

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

The Hill: “Jon Tester...Says He Will Introduce A Five-Year Lobbying Ban, Pressing President-Elect Donald Trump To Make Good On His Campaign Pledge.” “Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) says he will introduce a five-year lobbying ban, pressing President-elect Donald Trump to make good on his campaign pledge. Tester told reporters Friday he will roll out legislation next year to ban members of Congress and some executive branch officials from lobbying for five years after leaving office. Tester said that too many former lawmakers ‘stroll through the revolving door to K Street.’ ‘It’s unacceptable and not what their constituents had in mind,’ he said.” [The Hill, [12/9/16](#); 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.”** “During his campaign last year, Trump promised to ‘drain the swamp’ of corruption in Washington by instituting a five-year lobbying ban for executive officials and asking Congress to pass a similar wait period for former lawmakers. ‘Draining the swamp in Washington is one of the issues where the president and I agree,’ Tester said.” [The Hill, [3/3/17](#)]
- **National Journal: “Tester...Revealed A Plan Earlier This Month To Enact Trump’s Proposed Lobbying Ban For Lawmakers And Some Executive-Branch Officials.”** “Tester is preparing to work with the president-elect on some issues. He revealed a plan earlier this month to enact Trump’s proposed lobbying ban for lawmakers and some executive-branch officials. Democratic strategists said infrastructure is another priority on which they share common ground.” [National Journal, [12/15/16](#)]

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

	<p>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]</p> <p>HEADLINE: “Congress Clears Bill Cracking Down On Purchase Card Abuse.” [Government Executive, 9/25/12]</p> <p><u>Government Executive: Bipartisan Jon Tester-Cosponsored Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act Was Signed Into Law, “Toughen[ing] Oversight Of Agency Purchasing Cards.”</u> On March 17, 2011, Jon Tester cosponsored S. 300, the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012. <u>Government Executive</u> 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]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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]
<p>ROSENDALE: Jon Tester became a multi-millionaire in the Senate.</p> <p>Even bought a cosmopolitan castle on Capitol Hill.</p> <p>I'm Matt Rosendale and I approve this message because I don't want a castle in Washington, and I don't think becoming a Senator should make you rich enough to buy one.</p>	<p><u>MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE DEVELOPER WHO BOUGHT A \$2 MILLION TROPHY RANCH AND TURNED FARMLAND INTO REAL ESTATE</u></p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER WHO MOVE TO MONTANA AFTER BUYING A TROPHY RANCH, OWNS NO CATTLE</u></p> <p>Matt Rosendale: “I Develop Property, I’ve Said So.” [49:01, Missoula County Republican Primary Debate, 3/28/18] (VIDEO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Rosendale: “As I’ve Told You, I Develop Property.” [1:41:04, Primary Debate, Montana State University College Republicans, Bozeman, MT, 3/22/18] (VIDEO) <p>MTN News: “Matt Rosendale: The State Auditor And Real-Estate Manager From Glendive Reported Assets Valued From \$7 Million To \$32 Million.” “Republican Matt Rosendale: The state auditor and real-estate manager from Glendive reported assets valued from \$7 million to \$32 million, including MBA Consultants, which is his property-development company. His campaign said MBA manages the property he owns, including his ranch near Glendive.” [MTN News, 2/15/18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2002: Matt Rosendale Purchased A Working Ranch At Auction For \$2.175 Million In Glendive. [Glendive Ranger-Review, 8/22/02] <p>TPM: “Longtime Real Estate Developer [Matt Rosendale] Never Actually Ranched His Land Himself...It Appears That He’s Never Owned Any Cattle.”</p>

“But public records and his own past statements indicate the longtime real estate developer never actually ranched his land himself, instead renting it out for others to farm and run their cattle on. And the higher the office he’s run for, the more he’s talked up his supposed ranching experience...Rosendale hasn’t registered ownership of any livestock since 2011 — and before then it was limited to a few horses. It appears that he’s never owned any cattle.” [TPM, [5/29/18](#)]

- **Republican Russ Fagg: “Matt Rosendale May Describe Himself As A Rancher, But I Haven’t Met Many Ranchers Who Were Wealthy East Coast Real-Estate Developers Until They Were 40 Years Old.”** “That could be a problem for Rosendale as he looks to hang on for a primary victory next week, as his top primary opponent, former Judge Russ Fagg (R), has repeatedly questioned his roots in the state. ‘Matt Rosendale may describe himself as a rancher, but I haven’t met many ranchers who were wealthy east coast real-estate developers until they were 40 years old,’ Fagg said in a statement to TPM when asked about Rosendale’s ranching credentials.” [TPM, [5/29/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE TURNED MONTANA FARMLAND INTO REAL ESTATE

Great Falls Tribune: Matt Rosendale Planned “A Large Residential Development On 300 Acres He Bought” In Great Falls That Was Previously Farmland. [Great Falls Tribune, [3/10/04](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale On Planned Great Falls Development: “The Growth Rate Isn’t What It Was Back East, But You Have A Healthy Growth Rate, And That’s OK With Me.”** [Great Falls Tribune, [3/10/04](#)]

Matt Rosendale Predicted His Eagles Crossing Development Could Eventually Encompass As Many As 700 Units. [Great Falls Tribune, [3/22/04](#)]

- **Great Falls Tribune: “Also Receiving The Go-Ahead Was The Preliminary Plat Of The First Phase Of Eagles Crossing, A 300-Acre Development That Eventually Will Include As Many As 700 Units, According To Developer Matt Rosendale Of Glendive.”** [Great Falls Tribune, [4/8/04](#)]

JON TESTER FARMS THE LAND HIS GRANDPARENTS HOMESTEADED THREE GENERATIONS AGO AND HAS FOUGHT TO END CONGRESS’ PERKS

JON TESTER, THE SENATE’S ONLY WORKING FARMER, STILL FARMS THE LAND HIS GRANDPARENTS HOMESTEAD MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO

Jon Tester, The Senate’s Only Active Farmer, Returned To The Big Sandy Farm His Grandparents Homesteaded A Century Ago To Work The Land. “And I wanted to see where Mr. Tester, the Senate’s only active farmer, returns each weekend. Covering Congress, it is easy to fall into a trap of seeing politicians and the votes they cast strictly as products of their political parties. Following them home reminds you that politics actually come from somewhere. The Tester farm is outside the town of Big Sandy, Mont. Mr. Tester grew up on this farm. His grandparents homesteaded it a century ago.” [New York Times, [6/3/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Tester Spent His Break On A Tractor, Tilling The Land For Organic Peas On An 1,800-Acre Farm That Has Been In The Family For More Than 100 Years.”** [Washington Post, [5/2/17](#)]

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](#)]

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]

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, Required Lawmakers To Publicly Report Any Stock Transactions Within 45 Days Of The Trade, And Barred Lawmakers From Participating In Initial Stock Offerings On A Favored Basis. 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.”** “Senator Jon Tester is calling on Congress to embrace major steps toward full transparency, saying the government must be ‘totally clean’ to earn the public’s trust. Tester spoke this week at a Senate hearing examining his bipartisan Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, (STOCK Act) which prevents members of Congress and employees from using knowledge gained from their work and service for their personal financial benefit. Tester says transparency helps guarantee that those in public office don’t abuse their public trust. ‘It is critically important that we operate in a way that is totally clean,’ Tester said. ‘If there’s any way we can do that, we should make those policies mandatory. As far as the forms we fill out, they ought to all be online, our schedules ought to be online. We should be letting people know everything that they should reasonably know in a way that they can access it.” [NewsTalk KGVO, [12/2/11](#)]