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October 26, 2006

President George W. Bush
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I write to share my concern regarding the security situation at the United States Penitentiary Administrative Maximum Facility (the Supermax) in Florence, Colorado. The Supermax houses the federal prison system's most dangerous inmates, including a number of convicted terrorists. We in Colorado are proud of this facility. The Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") and the hardworking men and women who work in Florence play a pivotal role in the war on terror, and they do so at great personal risk.

As you may know, a recent report issued by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) concluded that there were significant security breaches at the Supermax. Specifically, the OIG investigation concluded that the BOP has failed to adequately monitor high-risk inmates' mail and telephone calls, did not hire any full-time Arabic language specialists to translate inmate communications until 2005, and has not adequately shared intelligence with the FBI. Therefore, according to the report, "the threat remains that terrorist and other high-risk inmates can use mail and verbal communications to conduct terrorist or criminal activities while incarcerated."

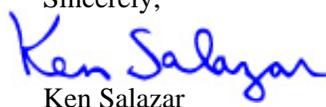
In addition, I believe that it is imperative to adequately fund the hardening of the perimeter and a centralized tower. Right now, the only fence that surrounds the four facilities in the Florence complex is a cow fence.

In the next several days, I will visit Supermax and meet with the warden and employees to get a firsthand review of the response to the conclusions of the OIG report and to see what other steps must be taken to ensure the safety of employees and the community.

Based on the OIG's criticisms, I want to work with your Administration to make sure that the BOP fulfills its mandate to monitor the communications of high-risk inmates at the Supermax. Therefore, I urge you to 1) immediately take whatever action necessary to ensure that the BOP addresses this serious security failure; 2) conduct a prompt review of all security procedures and staffing and security needs at BOP facilities; and 3) provide additional funds for BOP staffing and security needs in your Fiscal Year 2008 budget.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue for Colorado and our Nation.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
United States Senator