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COMMITTEES:  
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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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## United States Senate

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March 13, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a recent hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources on the budget for the Department of the Interior, I told you how pleased I was to hear of your commitment to the Centennial Challenge for our National Parks. I want to reiterate my support for a new commitment to our National Parks in advance of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Park Service's Organic Act in 2016.

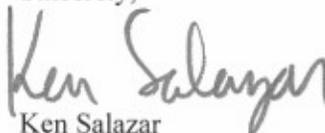
As I understand it, the National Park Service is planning to hold public meetings around the country to discuss the Centennial Challenge. Public input should be a foundation for this new initiative, as the voices of Americans should help shape the Park Service's priorities and investments over the coming years.

In conjunction with the Park Service's efforts to gather public input, I invite you or a designee from your office to Colorado to hold a public meeting on the Centennial Challenge. Colorado is home to many of the Park Service's most treasured landscapes, including Great Sand Dunes National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado National Monument, and Dinosaur National Monument, to name a few. Coloradans are great stewards of their national parks and I know they will have many ideas and inspirations for the Centennial Challenge to share with you.

Depending on your schedule, I would suggest that the Department of the Interior hold a meeting in a gateway community like Cortez, Alamosa, Grand Junction, Montrose, Gunnison, or Estes Park. Each of our national park units faces a unique set of challenges, and holding a meeting in a community nearby will yield views and ideas that you will not hear anywhere else in the country.

I look forward to working with you on the Centennial Challenge and hope that you will be able to come to the Centennial State to solicit the views of Coloradans. We would very much look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator