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June 6, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am writing to ask that you grant the request of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter for an extension of 120 days to review the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan (RMP).

If permitted, drilling for oil and gas on the Roan Plateau must be managed in ways that protect the exceptional wildlife habitat of these lands. In addition, the Roan Plateau is a favorite destination for hunting, fishing and backcountry recreation, and any drilling and production activities on these lands must also be managed to protect the Roan's unique features that make it such a popular destination site.

As you know, local governments and citizens who live near the Roan Plateau have submitted comments to the Bureau of Land Management expressing their support for strong protections of the land that will preserve its wilderness qualities, protect sensitive species, and maintain its recreational opportunities. I believe Governor Ritter's request for an extension of time to review and comment on the Roan Plateau RMP is reasonable, especially in light of the need to ensure the RMP requires the latest drilling technologies to minimize impacts on the surface of the land and ensures that the timing of any oil and gas drilling or production activity will safeguard wildlife and protect the area's unique resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar
United States Senator

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