

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
2300 15TH STREET
SUITE 450
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

October 4, 2007

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force
1660 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC, 20330-1660

Dear Secretary Wynne:

I am writing to follow up on our recent meeting on encroachment issues affecting Air Force installations, ranges, and airspace. I appreciated our discussion and look forward to our continued work to enhance the sustainability of our military installations in Colorado and across the country.

Encroaching development and loss of habitat are placing growing pressure on the military missions of Air Force installations, ranges, and airspace around the country. In Colorado, like elsewhere, the encroachment problems arising at Buckley AFB, Schriever AFB, and Peterson AFB require smart strategic planning at the local, regional, and national levels, partnerships with local communities, states, and federal land managing agencies, and a strong commitment from the Congress and Air Force leadership at all levels of command.

In our conversation, we discussed the Air Force developing a formal, comprehensive strategy to manage encroachment affecting Air Force installations, ranges, and airspace now and in the foreseeable future. Clearly, experience has shown that while working with local governments on zoning and other similar planning measures is valuable and should be continued, it may be insufficient in many cases to assure long-term sustainability, particularly in areas with rapid growth and changing economies.

I appreciated your interest in the concept of developing a formal, comprehensive strategy for addressing encroachment and would ask that you consider establishing a pilot effort in Colorado to test the strategy. It is important, in my view, that this strategic planning model supplement, rather than simply replicate or extend, existing Air Force initiatives and it should be a model that can be applied at bases around the country. Additionally, it should be designed to be fully integrated with other sustainability initiatives at the regional and national level and capitalize on existing programs such as the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

I am under the impression, based in part on the recent reports on the REPI program by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and by the RAND Corporation, that the other military services have

developed their own versions of the strategic planning approach we discussed. These may serve as useful models from which to draw.

I sincerely appreciate your strong interest in this issue and look forward to our continued work together. I stand ready to assist you in any way, including championing legislation that the Administration may determine necessary to better address encroachment issues affecting Air Force installations, ranges, and airspace. Thank you again for your cooperation and for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Salazar
United States Senator