

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>

December 06, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

I write to convey my deep concern regarding news reports that indicate the Administration is planning to severely reduce and in some cases eliminate funding for vital grant programs within the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) in Fiscal Year 2009. As the former Attorney General of Colorado, I am deeply concerned with any proposal that would limit the ability of our state and local first responders to plan and prepare for an emergency.

The HSGP is critical to giving states and first responders the tools they need to prevent, prepare for, and respond to terrorist attacks and other disasters. In Fiscal Year 2007, for example, Colorado received approximately \$19.9 million in grants through the HSGP. These funds have been used for, among other things, training and equipping Colorado's first responders, improving Colorado's public safety communications systems, and developing an emergency response plan in Colorado's nine All-Hazards Emergency Management Regions.

Even with this funding, many Colorado law enforcement and homeland security officials have expressed to me that they still face challenges and shortcomings in their emergency preparedness. This concern is echoed by first responders, as well as city and state officials throughout the country. Our port security is porous, our public transportation systems in major cities are vulnerable, and our communication systems are in dire need of modernization. With these needs still unmet, and with the serious threat of terrorism still confronting our Nation, it is vital that we make the necessary investments in our homeland preparedness – not diminish this investment.

Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Colorado and the Nation, I urge you to reconsider your position with respect to HSGP funding.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER