Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 15, 2007

Robert Sturgell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Sturgell:

We were pleased to learn that the Federal Aviation Administration recently decided to accelerate deployment of the Airport Surface Detection Equipment Model X (ASDE-X) system at 27 of our nation's airports, including Denver International Airport (DIA). This system, which gives air traffic controllers real-time information about all aircraft and vehicles on airport grounds, is essential to modernizing our air traffic control system and preventing incursions on our nation's runways.

Now that the ASDE-X system will be implemented by 2010—a full year earlier than previously expected—we are writing to request that you prioritize and accelerate implementation of ASDE-X at DIA.

In the past year, two of the 24 most serious runway incursions in the U.S. occurred at DIA, and DIA was the only airport in the nation to have more than one serious runway incursion. In addition, two less-serious incursions occurred at DIA in the past year.

Given the clear safety challenges at DIA—the fourth busiest airport in the country, we believe the ASDE-X system should be implemented there without delay, and we ask that you consider moving DIA to the top of the list of the remaining airports that are scheduled to receive it.

On behalf of the nearly fifty million passengers who pass through DIA annually, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar
United States Senator

Wayne Allard
United States Senator

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Mark Udall
Member of Congress

John Salazar
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress