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October 30, 2007

The Honorable Samuel L. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
100 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

I am writing to request that the Department of Energy update its December 2006 Report to Congress, entitled "Energy Demands on Water Resources: Report to Congress on the Interdependency of Energy and Water." While the report discusses some of the expected water needs of certain energy sources, it does not present a comprehensive, comparative picture of the water needs for all of the traditional and alternative energy sources addressed in the recently passed *Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007*.

My state of Colorado is rich in many natural resources and will continue to make important contributions to our nation's energy security. As the Congress adopts new energy legislation, however, we must consider the effects of energy production strategies on our supply of water, which is one of the scarcest resources in Western states. With our growing population, water scarcity must be considered when developing new forms of energy.

For this reason, I request that the Department of Energy undertake a study that analyzes the amount of water required to produce and distribute traditional and alternative energy sources. The report should address a variety of issues including the potential benefits of advanced biofuels, particularly cellulosic biofuels, in terms of energy balance, lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, and total water consumption. It should also include a quantitative analysis regarding the volume of water necessary to produce a given unit of energy (megawatt of electricity or gallon of fuel). The report should also consider the variable characteristics of fuels (energy balance, lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, and water consumption) made from different feedstocks.

As we strive to achieve energy security, we must ensure that it is not at the expense of other critical resources. Updating the "Energy Demands and Water Resources" report to reflect this concern will help us to understand this issue more fully.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
United States Senator

cc: Senator Byron Dorgan, Chairman, Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee
Senator Pete Domenici, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee