

KEN SALAZAR  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:  
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6852

COLORADO:  
2300 15TH STREET  
SUITE 450  
DENVER, CO 80202  
(303) 455-7800

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

January 24, 2006

Sally Wisely  
Colorado State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
2850 Youngfield St.  
Lakewood, CO 80215

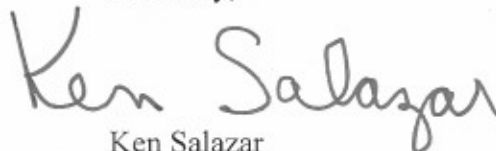
Dear Director Wisely,

The City of Grand Junction and the Town of Palisade have contacted my office regarding their concerns about the February 9<sup>th</sup> lease sale of parcels within their watershed. I am aware that the City of Grand Junction has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to address their watershed concerns, including recommending parcels that demand enhanced protection and lease stipulations. Both communities have concluded, however, that BLM's proposed stipulations fail to protect the drinking water supply for their communities. In the summer of 2005, I toured the state and pledged that I would closely monitor environmental issues related to natural gas development and its impacts on local communities.

In that regard, I request that the parcels outlined in the City of Grand Junction's protest letter be withdrawn until Grand Junction and Palisade's concerns are addressed. In addition, I further request that the BLM postpone leasing the remainder of the parcels in the Grand Mesa area for at least 90 days to give the affected parties, including the town of Mesa, the opportunity to assess the impact of oil and gas drilling on all of the watersheds in that area.

America's energy problem did not come about overnight. Neither rushing to lease these parcels on February 9<sup>th</sup> nor disregarding the concerns of local communities would be a prudent path toward solving the nation's energy problems. I trust a reasonable postponement of the lease sale will enable BLM to balance these competing interests and to find common ground.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar

United States Senator