

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON



The Honorable Ken Salazar United States Senate Washington, DC 20510-0607

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Dear Senator Salazar:

Thank you for your sincere interest in the Air Force's encroachment deterrence efforts. Our recent meeting coupled with your letters to me on this subject clearly demonstrates your commitment to this issue.

We are equally committed and actively pursuing solutions. Since our meeting in September 2007, we have embraced your suggestion to test our strategy in Colorado and have taken several positive steps to make this a reality. Last month, we met with Mr. Matthew Lee-Ashely of your staff and have committed to develop a comprehensive strategy to address encroachment at Air Force installations and ranges in Colorado. In addition, Air Force Space Command initiated a pilot encroachment program and established a "Front Range Combined Military Comprehensive Planning Group" made up of representatives from all military installations in the state. As you know, the strong leadership necessary to take on this pilot effort is resident in this command and they possess the kind of foresight that will result in the successful implementation of the new comprehensive strategy. We will forward you a status report to include milestones, timelines, and accomplishments by March 30, 2008.

Again, thank you for your support of the missions and long-term sustainability of the Air Force and Air National Guard installations and ranges. A similar letter is being sent to Senator Allard. That for your or I!

Sincerely,