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November 14, 2008

The Honorable Thomas F. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
1500 Defense Pentagon Room 2E195
Washington, DC 20301-1500

Dear Mr. Hall:

As you develop your budget request for FY 2010, I write to ask that you consider funding a new Department of Defense (DOD) STARBASE program in Colorado Springs in my home state of Colorado.

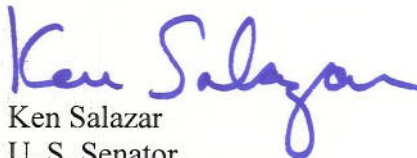
As you know, even though Colorado is home to several world-class military installations and thousands of military families, we are one of only a handful of states that do not have a STARBASE program. Establishing such a program in Colorado Springs would enable local 5th graders to take advantage of the area's incredible personnel and technical resources. Students would benefit from the program's proven record of successfully engaging young people in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

My understanding is that it would take approximately \$300,000 to initially set up a STARBASE program in Colorado and an additional \$300,000 to run the program for a year. While I realize that there are many programs competing for limited FY 2010 funds, I ask you to prioritize this modest project. An investment in our nation's youth is a direct investment in our future.

The community stands ready to work to make this project a reality. General Renuart at USNORTHCOM has committed to assisting the establishment of a STARBASE program on Peterson Air Force Base. Superintendent Terry Bishop of School District 11 in Colorado has committed to working with a STARBASE program to ensure the implementation is successful.

I hope you will favorably consider this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff members Emily Paladino and John Plumb at 202-224-5852 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
U. S. Senator