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COMMITTEES:  
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## United States Senate

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11 July 2008

Senator Tim Johnson, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson:

Last year, I amended the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2008 to place a one-year moratorium on the Army's proposed plan to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeast Colorado by 435,000 acres. The purpose of the amendment was to provide time for Congress and residents of southeast Colorado to receive much-needed information from the Army on its expansion plans so that we can adequately evaluate it, its impacts on the area, and its effects on the region's farming and ranching heritage.

To ensure that the Army provides the public and Congress the information we need, I also added an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008. This amendment required the Army to provide a detailed report on its plans, the need for the expansion, and the possible effects of its plan. That report has not yet been completed and is due at the end of July. Once the Army's report has been finalized, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will have up to 180 days to review the report's findings and the public will have 90 days to comment. This process will extend into the next fiscal year and likely the next calendar year.

Until these reports are complete and the local communities and Congress have had time to review them and decide how to proceed, the moratorium on expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site should remain in place. I therefore respectfully request that you extend the moratorium on the Pinon Canyon expansion through 2009 by including the following language in the Subcommittee's mark of the bill:

*"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado."*

This language is of utmost importance to protecting the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers in southeastern Colorado and to upholding the thoughtful and reasonable process Congress has created for the Army to justify its stated requirement for additional training land. The House of Representatives continues to support this moratorium as well, approving similar language on the floor last year and incorporating identical language into the subcommittee mark this year.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Additionally, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in this or any of the other congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the fiscal year 2009 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and report, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Thank you for your leadership of the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Ken Salazar  
United States Senate