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March 8, 2007

The Honorable Pete Geren
Acting Secretary
United States Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-1600

Dear Secretary Geren:

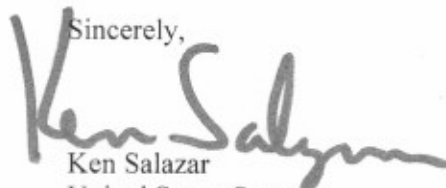
As you determine the allocation of funding for the Army through the end of Fiscal Year 2007, I would like to request that you prioritize funding for projects that are critical to the mission of Fort Carson in Colorado Springs.

I would particularly like to emphasize the importance of an upgrade to the utilities infrastructure on the post. We need to ensure that critical utility systems are in place to provide long-term service to existing and planned facilities at Fort Carson. Specifically, the post needs funding to replace 1950's era electrical circuits, improve sewer lines, and upgrade natural gas pipelines to meet federal standards. These utilities serve administrative, training, and maintenance facilities, in addition to single enlisted barracks and privatized Army family housing units. Without adequate utilities to support them, these facilities cannot operate.

Fort Carson is currently undergoing an expansion that is bringing an additional 12,000 to 15,000 soldiers to the post. Construction is already underway, or scheduled to begin soon, on several new facilities that will house the 4th Infantry Division and its four modular brigades. These construction projects will be slowed or severely impaired if the utilities on the post are not upgraded in a timely manner. Quite literally, we need to lay the groundwork for the post's expansion.

Because the utilities upgrade is vital to Fort Carson and to our nation's security and because it received funding in the Senate-passed version of the Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill I ask that that you consider providing \$6.8 million in funding to complete the project in Fiscal Year 2007.

Recognizing that agencies will make funding determinations based on project merit and in accordance with existing statutory criteria, we ask that you please consider retaining funding for this important Colorado program in your budget.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar
United States Senator

Cc: Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr.