

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

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(Sent to Senator Campbell and Representatives Tancredo, DeGette, Schaffer, Hefley, and McInnis)

Dear Congressman:

We are writing to urge you to support the continued authorization of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Worker and Community Transition Program. We call your attention to this small but strategic program, which is also known as Section 3161 (authorized under Section 3161 of the FY 93 Defense Authorization Act), because we anticipate another attempt will soon be made to repeal this important program.

Section 3161 provides important community transition funds to communities neighboring DOE nuclear facilities. This program provides policy direction and funding for DOE contractor workforce restructuring activities, oversees labor-management relations, establishes policy for community transition, and allocates funding to mitigate economic impacts resulting from the end of the Cold War and the corresponding shut down of nuclear operations at many DOE facilities.

In May of 1999, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Procurement set the authorization basis for this program at \$20 million for FY 00, a 33% cut over both the FY 99 appropriation and the President's FY 00 budget request. It is also \$10 million less than the Senate Armed Services subcommittee mark. We fear that funds to the program will continue to be cut and we urge you to continue to fully fund the program.

At home, local communities have been impacted by the closure of Rocky Flats. Many highly skilled workers have lost their jobs and will need to be retrained in order to find productive work in the existing job market. During this forthcoming year, numerous current and former Rocky Flats workers, our constituents, will again need the programs funded and administered by the Office of Community and Worker Transition, and any cuts will likely undermine the federal government's obligation to these veterans of the Cold War. Funding is also an integral part of maintaining a skilled workforce through closure at Rocky Flats.

The seven local governments that neighbor or own open space adjacent to Rocky Flats have come together to form the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments (Coalition). The Coalition has been designated the DOE Community Reuse Organization for Rocky Flats, and among other things, works together and with community members and workers

on the range of issues facing the cleanup and future use of the Site. These funds also benefit Coalition programs and thus our communities.

The Coalition is prepared to provide any assistance it can, and welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your staff on this issue. If you have any questions, please call David Abelson, Coalition Executive Director, at (303) 940-6090.

Thank you for your help in this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Thomas Brunner
Chairman