

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County City and County of Broomfield Jefferson County
City of Arvada City of Boulder City of Westminster Town of Superior

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January 4, 2005

Honorable Wayne Allard
United States Senate
525 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Allard,

As the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, we thank you for your tremendous efforts in establishing the Department of Energy Local Stakeholder Organizations (LSO) and for securing \$500,000 in fiscal year 2005.

The Department of Energy and its prime contractor, Kaiser-Hill, have also done an excellent job in remediating Rocky Flats and reducing the extensive risks that the site posed. It is easy to lose sight of the daunting task they have performed.

While closure signifies the end of active remediation, it does not signal the end of DOE's work at the site nor the end of ongoing regulatory and community oversight of post-closure activities. A great deal of work will continue past the signing of the final regulatory documents – groundwater treatment systems will need to be maintained, surface water and groundwater will need to be monitored, caps will need to be repaired, and fences and other remedy protections will need to be built and maintained.

The legislation you authored and the funds you secured will ensure that there will be a formal mechanism for ongoing local government and stakeholder involvement during these upcoming critical years. It is our hope and expectation that the work of the LSO will be uneventful, but should problems arise we can feel confident that the structure will be in place to ensure there is a formal mechanism for our continued involvement.

The Coalition takes seriously the responsibility Congress has vested in local governments to work with DOE to establish an LSO for Rocky Flats. The Coalition has been reaching out to the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board and others in developing the LSO. While we do not have all of the answers, we believe that the process we have initiated will ensure that the LSO is broadly representative of the varied interests in this community. We shall continue to work with your staff as we address the myriad of issues.

Finally, the Coalition recognizes that \$500,000 is more than the LSO will need in a given fiscal year. The Coalition therefore strongly recommends that the LSO grant be structured to allow these monies to be used in multiple fiscal years. The Coalition's CRO grant from DOE contains such a provision and we believe this approach would best suit the LSO and the federal government.

Again, thank you for your support and continued belief in our work and the work of the other community members. As elected officials, we recognize the important role staff plays. Jayson Roehl, Jeanette Alberg, Sean Conway, and David Cherington have worked tirelessly with and for us. Our thanks go to them as well.

Sincerely,

/s/

Karen Imbierowicz
Chair, Town of Superior

/s/

Shaun McGrath
City of Boulder

/s/

Gary Brosz
City and County of Broomfield

/s/

Michelle Lawrence
Jefferson County

/s/

Paul Danish
Boulder County

/s/

Sam Dixon
City of Westminster

/s/

Lorraine Anderson
City of Arvada