

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Karen Imbierowicz

February 4, 2009

Senator Mark Udall  
B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Michael Bennet  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall and Senator Bennet,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, I am writing to draw your attention to the section in the Senate's economic stimulus plan that would increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM).

The Stewardship Council understands based on conversations with colleagues in Washington, D.C. that the Senate is considering providing roughly \$5.9 billion above the amount the House included for environmental cleanup in its bill, HR 1, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." While we cannot assess exactly how much money EM needs for environmental cleanup and how use of these funds will stimulate economic recovery, we firmly believe that additional funding closer to the Senate's amount is warranted.

As governments and community organizations neighboring Rocky Flats, we understand the importance of stable funding for EM activities. Due to stable funding and a corresponding commitment from DOE and Congress to accelerate cleanup for Rocky Flats, DOE was able to save tens of billions of dollars off of initial cost projections for remediating Rocky Flats. This funding model, which was to serve as the model for other DOE cleanup projects, was abandoned in recent years. Funding for EM has, in turn, dramatically decreased and DOE now struggles to meet certain regulatory commitments, including compliance orders. One result is that environmental remediation projects take longer to complete, thereby increasing the costs to taxpayers.

More broadly, the Rocky Flats cleanup in part depended on other DOE facilities accepting Rocky Flats waste and special nuclear materials. As a matter of equity and good governance, it remains incumbent on Colorado's elected leaders to support efforts for these DOE sites to secure the funding needed to reduce the increased obligations resulting from the cleanup of Rocky Flats. One way to meet this commitment is to support increased funding for Hanford, INL, Savannah River and any other site that now hosts Rocky Flats' legacy. The Senate's economic stimulus bill represents one such step.

As the bill progresses through the Senate, we request that the Senate adopt a funding level that is closer to the \$6.4 billion Senators are considering for environmental cleanup rather than the \$500 million included in HR 1.

Thank you for considering our thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeannette Hillery  
Chairman

Cc: Rep. Diana Degette  
Rep. Jared Polis  
Rep. Betsy Markey  
Rep. Mike Coffman  
Rep. Ed Perlmutter