

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

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

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May 6, 2002

Senator Wayne Allard
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 are writing to reemphasize the Board's support for federal acquisition of privately held mineral rights at Rocky Flats.

An important element to our support of "The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001" was the assurance that all outstanding questions concerning non-federal mineral rights at Rocky Flats would be fairly addressed. We support federal ownership of these rights, preferably from a willing seller, and request you take appropriate steps to work with the owners of the mineral rights to secure federal ownership or control of the minerals. Also, we would like to highlight that there are both permitted and non-permitted mineral rights across the site. We believe acquisition of these rights is a critical element in protecting the wildlife resources at Rocky Flats.

We understand that among the issues currently under discussion between the Department of Energy and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are options for the federal government to acquire or control in perpetuity privately held mineral rights. USFWS will not assume management of any lands at Rocky Flats so long as the mineral rights are not owned by the federal government.

As conversations progress, any acquisition must consider the loss of tax revenues to Jefferson County resulting from public acquisition of these property rights. Therefore, any acquisition plan and funding must include compensation to the County. Further, we recognize that acquisition, either by purchase or trade, must be based on a fair market valuation of the minerals. We support this requirement, and also strongly believe, per a provision in the Refuge Act, that any costs to acquire these rights shall not serve to reduce the funds available for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats.

Thank you once again for your leadership on Rocky Flats issues. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Michelle Lawrence
Jefferson County

/s/
Sam Dixon
City of Westminster

/s/
Lisa Morzel
City of Boulder

/s/
Hank Stovall
City of Broomfield

/s/
Lorraine Anderson
City of Arvada

/s/
Karen Imbierowicz
Town of Superior

/s/
Paul Danish
Boulder County

Cc: Jessie Roberson, DOE
Dan Ashe, USFWS