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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0606

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August 28, 2007

The Honorable Pete Geren  
Secretary  
Department of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Geren:

I write today regarding the Army's interest in possible land acquisition related to the expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southeastern Colorado. I appreciate your recognition of past correspondence on this subject and the continued need to involve the communities, residents, and land owners of southeastern Colorado in this process.

My visit yesterday to Fort Carson has further solidified my belief in the importance of ensuring that our men and women in uniform continue to maintain their unit proficiency and continue their learning of advanced tactics and procedures needed to meet the battlefield challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That said, it is my view that in order for expansion of PCMS to move forward, a temporary moratorium on unrequested eminent domain should be considered. I am additionally expressing my intention of exploring a legislative moratorium on such action in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense authorization bill.

Further, for the continued advancement of the mutual goal of creating a "win-win" situation for both the Army and the residents of southeastern Colorado, I ask that the Army offer more flexible acquisition methods such as reverse mortgages and lease-to-own options on lifetime estates. This would allow willing sellers to continue to live on their land until such time they choose to transfer their property. In my estimation, employing these more flexible methods will help to ease distrust in the community and could allow for a mutually beneficial solution.

I again emphasize the importance of the continued efforts to reach out to the community and the establishment of dialog on this matter. This effort will help my constituents better understand the Army's intentions and build trust. Continued public outreach and the inclusion of residents and land owners in the land acquisition planning process will be keys to the success of this proposal. I would ask that you and your staff provide a response to these issues no later than September 17, 2007.

Sincerely,



Wayne Allard  
United States Senator

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