DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310

JUL 1 9 2007

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senator
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3903

The Honorable Wayne Allard
United States Senator
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515Dear Senators

Dear Senators:

I am writing in reply to Senator Salazar's letter of June 20, 2007, to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates regarding the Army's proposed expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southeastern Colorado. I deeply appreciate your ongoing efforts to develop and propose creative solutions on this issue.

The Army shares your desire to craft a land acquisition approach representing a "win-win" solution that would allow our Soldiers to accomplish their valid training requirements, while also ensuring that the interests of the State of Colorado, Southeastern Colorado, the Pikes Peak Region, and the local community – including ranchers – are advanced. We believe such an approach is not only possible, but necessary to the success of the Army and Fort Carson.

To that end, the Army will go back to the drawing board on its land acquisition approach at PCMS, and listen and look to the local community for additional ideas and suggestions that we might use to improve the process. Our intent is to fully consider potential economic enhancements to local communities, with the goal of accomplishing the acquisition of the necessary property from willing sellers. We will not move forward with any acquisition until we have had an opportunity to discuss ideas for a win-win solution with you and with the local communities.

We stand ready to brief you or your staff as required or desired on this or any other issue of concern. Thank you for your interest in this matter, and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

Pete Geren
Acting Secretary of the Army