

# Wayne Allard

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January 24, 2005

## **SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO STOP STUDY OF MOVING CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) introduced legislation in the Senate Wednesday to stop the U.S. Department of Defense from conducting another study on the feasibility of transporting the chemical munitions at the Pueblo Chemical Depot to another site out of state to be destroyed, rather than destroying those weapons on the site. Co-sponsors of the Allard bill include Senators Ken Salazar (D-Colorado), Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), Jim Bunning (R-Kentucky) and Senator Richard Shelby (R-Alabama).

“It is extremely disturbing to me that the Pentagon wants to study the possibility of relocating the Pueblo’s chemical weapon stockpile after the Pentagon assuring Senator Salazar and myself last week that such an option was unrealistic, not to mention illegal,” Senator Allard said.

“Studying whether to relocate the stockpile is an incredible waste of time and scarce defense dollars. The money should be used to help pay for the rising cost of disposing of these weapons, not a meaningless intellectual exercise,” added Senator Allard.

Two Pentagon officials met with Senators Allard and Salazar on January 18 to discuss the department’s decision to delay the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo, and assured the senators that the chemical weapons would not be transported out of Colorado.

But the next day the Department of Defense said it would conduct a three-month study on the feasibility of transporting the stockpiles out of Colorado, Kentucky and Indiana to operational sites in other states, at a cost of nearly \$150,000, despite the fact that the Department of Defense has conducted three similar studies over the last two decades which concluded such a plan would be impractical. Currently, it is against the law to transport chemical munitions across state lines.

“I have already been told by Pentagon officials that the study is going to conclude that the transportation of chemical munitions across state lines is not practical,” Senator Allard said. “If that is the case, why do the study? Why waste \$150,000 to study the feasibility of an option that is against the law and has already been determined by the Pentagon to be impractical.”

“With the Department wasting money on meaningless studies, it’s no wonder that this program is over-budget and behind schedule,” Senator Allard said.

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