

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD PRAISES YALE'S DECISION TO DONATE PROCEEDS ON BACA RANCH SALE YALE PRESIDENT LEVIN AGREES TO DONATE PROFITS TO NATURE CONSERVANCY TOWARD BACA RANCH PURCHASE FOLLOWING SENATOR'S LETTER AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today praised Yale President Richard Levin's decision to donate Yale's profit from the sale of the Baca Ranch in the San Luis Valley to the Nature Conservancy.

The decision came after Allard sent a letter on Thursday to the Yale President asking for him to consider lowering the selling price of the Baca Ranch to Nature Conservancy, which is currently involved in negotiations to acquire the ranch. Allard also visited by phone with Levin to discuss the issue on Thursday.

"I want to commend President Levin for doing the right thing," Allard said. "The taxpayers will benefit greatly from this generous donation to the Nature Conservancy by Yale University."

Allard sent the letter to the Yale President after learning that the Yale Foundation has owned a 50 percent stake in the Cabeza de Baca, the owner of the ranch, for several years. In 2000, Allard and Colorado Third District Representative Scott McInnis helped shepherd legislation through Congress to acquire the Baca Ranch and turn the Great Sand Dunes National Monument into the nation's newest national park.

"Once President Levin learned about the history of the San Luis Valley and the struggle they have gone through to protect the Sand Dunes and their agricultural heritage, he recognized that Yale University should not have been involved in this venture and he wanted to make things right," added Allard. "His prompt response to my request is greatly appreciated and should be praised by all Coloradans."

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