



U.S. Senator Wayne Allard

U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave



For Release:
January 27, 2005

Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Aaron Johnson
(202) 225-4676

SENATOR ALLARD, CONGRESSWOMAN MUSGRAVE
DISCUSS FUTURE OF FORT COLLINS LAB
WITH CDC DIRECTOR GERBERDING
CDC DISCUSSES FUTURE PLANS FOR LAB EXPANSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Colorado 4th District Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO) on Thursday met with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Julie Gerberding to discuss the future of the Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases (DVBID) laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado.

“Congresswoman Musgrave and I had a very productive meeting with Dr. Gerberding ,” Senator Allard said. “The cutting-edge research performed at the CDC lab is critical to our nation’s safety, and I was pleased to hear that the CDC agrees with Congress on the importance of maintaining an updated, well-funded laboratory in Fort Collins. Dr. Gerberding also mentioned that the CDC is considering future expansion of the lab, which would be great news for Colorado. ”

“I am pleased we had the opportunity to follow up with the Director of CDC, and I am very encouraged to hear of the continued commitment to the Fort Collins facility," said Musgrave. "A facility in Colorado not only makes sense because the diseases this lab researches exist naturally in the region, but it also prudent national security policy. It is clear the CDC understands multiple facilities around the nation would reduce disruptions in health and safety should terrorists attack.”

Last year, Senator Allard and Congresswoman Musgrave secured \$22 million in Fiscal Year 2005 funding for the lab, part of more than \$59 million in federal appropriations for the lab since fiscal year 2002.

The DVBID facility in Fort Collins is one of only two CDC laboratories in the country. As one of the few U.S. laboratories specializing in vector-borne disease, the Fort Collins facility is the site of advanced research on West Nile virus, encephalitis, Lyme disease and many other conditions.

###