

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD INTRODUCES EPA OMBUDSMAN BILL LEGISLATION WOULD SET UP INDEPENDENT OFFICE TO INVESTIGATE CONCERNS RAISED BY CITIZENS

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has teamed up with U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Larry Craig (R-ID) to introduce legislation to revamp the operations of the EPA Ombudsman’s Office. The legislation would allow the ombudsman to report directly to the EPA Administrator and provides criminal penalties for anyone knowingly obstructing or misleading the work of the ombudsman office.

“This legislation will ensure that citizens have someone to turn to when they feel their concerns and questions are not being addressed by the EPA officials,” Allard said. “For the first time, we are ensuring the EPA Ombudsman’s office can do its job free from agency interference.”

Allard began his effort to strengthen the EPA Ombudsman’s office in 1999 following the Shattuck Chemical Company investigation in Denver, Colorado. The investigation, which was requested by Allard, led to the original Record of Decision (ROD) being overturned following an EPA Ombudsman’s report that showed the EPA had erred in their original recommendation for cleanup of the superfund site.

The legislation, The Ombudsman Reauthorization Act of 2001, has been assigned to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Allard said he is hopeful the committee will hold a hearing early this Summer on the bill.

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