

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
December 12, 2001

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Kelly Brady
(202) 224-5946

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE BILL GAINS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ALLARD ATTACHES LEGISLATION TO DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Washington, D.C. – Legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) to turn Rocky Flats into a wildlife refuge following its cleanup and closure gained congressional approval today when a House-Senate Conference Committee added his legislation to the DOD Authorization Bill.

“Congress has given Coloradans a early Christmas present.” Allard said following the Conference Committee’s approval. “This is a great day for everyone who has worked long and hard to preserve this area as open space for our children and grandchildren.”

Allard and Colorado Second District U.S. Representative Mark Udall introduced the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act earlier this year after working with local citizens and elected officials for more than two years to determine the best post-closure use of Rocky Flats. The legislation has been endorsed by Colorado Governor Bill Owens, Attorney General Ken Salazar and the Rocky Flats Council of Governments (RFCLOG).

“We have a lot of work ahead of us before we can turn Rocky Flats over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department to be managed as a national wildlife refuge,” added Allard. “Rocky Flats must first be completely cleaned up and closed. My hope is that we can accomplish that by 2006, but in order to meet that goal we must continue the progress we have made over the last few years toward clean up of the facility.”

The DOD Conference Report is expected to be approved by the entire House and Senate within the next day or two and then sent to President Bush for his signature before Christmas.

###