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April 29, 2016

Governor John Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol Bldg
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

As you may know, President Barack Obama's plan to close Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) could involve transfers of dangerous terrorists to federal prisons in Fremont County. I applaud your decision to listen to the people of Colorado and oppose any transfer of dangerous terrorists to our state.

To better publicize the opposition to such transfers that we have in Colorado, I urge you to testify before Congress regarding the costs, risk and impacts such actions could have on the state of Colorado. Just this week Governor Nikki Haley, along with other law enforcement and local officials, appeared before the House Homeland Security Committee to share local concerns with being forced to house Guantanamo detainees. This brought welcome attention to this issue, and by your testimony before Congress you would be able to do the same.

In addition, Congressman Buck, Congressman Tipton, and I are working with the Department of Defense to arrange a delegation of federal, state, and local officials to travel to GTMO to observe the facility, its detainees, and its safety measures. We believe that state legislators, county commissioners, mayors, and other local officials have the right to completely understand what their communities could have to face, if the President continues with his plan. These officials need to visit the GTMO facility, receive unclassified briefings of known threats, and be given as much access to information regarding the detainees as is feasible. Should you find such a trip useful as you continue to assess the local and state impact of these transfers, I would certainly welcome your attendance. Having toured Guantanamo Bay myself, I assure you that a firsthand perspective is invaluable.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked long and hard to ensure that it is against the law to transfer terrorist detainees to American soil. I look forward to continuing to work with you, Senator Bennet, and Senator Gardner on this issue. I will continue to do everything in my power to stop dangerous, radical Islamic terrorists from threatening our national security.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress