

DOUG LAMBORN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO



437 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4422
FAX 202-226-2638

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

RANKING MEMBER,
ENERGY AND MINERALS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER,
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1271 KELLY JOHNSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 110
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920
719-520-0055
FAX 719-520-0840

WEBSITE:
Lamborn.house.gov

November 18, 2009

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
Department of Defense
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary McHugh,

The Army's recent decision to drop an appeal regarding Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) provides opportunity for reconciliation between the Army and Colorado residents who are not supportive of the expansion of PCMS. This decision represents a sign of goodwill by the Army. I see it as a welcome opportunity to foster meetings between the Army and the residents of the communities neighboring PCMS to discuss a win-win solution for all parties involved.

The Army's requirement to expand PCMS has been heavily debated in Colorado for several years. I have worked with the residents of Colorado, as well as the Army, since my first day in Congress to favorably resolve this issue. Last year, in a formal request for more information on the Army's intent on PCMS, I received several assurances from the Honorable Keith Eastin, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment. To highlight, Mr. Eastin stated in writing that the Army would not use eminent domain to acquire land for PCMS, but they were willing to acquire land either via lease or purchase from willing property owners. Congress is able to back this pledge up legislatively. Mr. Eastin added that by expanding PCMS by the proposed 100,000 acres, the local community would see a package of military construction of over \$140 million dollars. The community would also see a potential increase of 100 or more full time equivalent staff that would have a combined payroll and operations budget of over \$9 million dollars a year. This too can be reinforced by Congress legislatively. The Army has said that they would be open to allowing grazing or other compatible agricultural uses on newly acquired land as a way to reduce the impact to local ranchers and farmers who might be affected. These and other pertinent issues could be further discussed during meetings with the residents living near PCMS.

I would like to offer my assistance in helping to facilitate these meetings between the Army and residents of these communities to achieve a true partnership with all concerned.

I will look forward to your reply. Should you want to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress