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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0602

July 9, 2008

Mr. Hamlet J. Barry, III
Manager, Denver Water
Denver Water Administrative Building
1600 W. 12th Ave.
Denver, CO 80204-3412

Dear Chips:

I understand from media reports and local community officials that Denver Water has closed the Dillon Dam road due to concerns about potential security threats. While I appreciate that Denver Water needs to protect this facility from such potential threats, I am concerned about the way that the closure has been handled.

It seems that many of the local officials and first responders in the community were taken by surprise by the closure. Given that local first responders (the sheriff and local law enforcement) are physically present in the area and would be directly involved in responding to any public safety threat, it concerns me to hear that they were not directly consulted about this closure, nor, it seems, were they informed of the precise nature and specifics of any potential threat.

In the interest of helping reinforce better communication between Denver Water and the local community, I would respectfully urge Denver Water to immediately consult with local communities and describe the basis for the closure, including alternatives that protect the dam and public safety. If the particulars about this potential threat are highly sensitive, perhaps this consultation can occur with confidentiality and with appropriate security measures and protocols.

It's important that Denver Water's actions are supported by those closest to this facility so that security and response can be better coordinated. By working with the local community and sharing information, perhaps that support can be forthcoming—or, at the very least, there can be a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the need for this action. It strikes me that local first responders may also have information that could help Denver Water adjust its action to better respond to the threat while also accommodating the needs of the local community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I stand ready to work with you and the local communities to help resolve this matter and help secure the safety of this facility and the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall

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