United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 5, 2010

Mr. Andrew Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA
500 C Street, SW, 7th Floor
Washington D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I recently learned of your July visit to Colorado, and I wish to thank you for taking the time to visit our state. As you know, protecting America's surface infrastructure and transportation is a formidable challenge. Every day, millions of people and goods traverse our country by car, truck and rail, facilitating travel and commerce. Ensuring the safety of surface transportation is an important goal that we must prioritize.

As you now know, Colorado is home to a unique state-of-the-art facility owned by the Federal Railroad Administration and operated by the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. The center has trained thousands of first responders and other officials on how exactly to respond to an emergency on our surface transportation system. It is also continually developing ways that we can detect threats and prevent accidents to keep our roads and railways safe for the businesses and people who depend on them daily.

I appreciate your commitment to this effort, and I hope that we can have an ongoing conversation on how this important federal resource in Pueblo can help meet the current and growing need to protect America's surface transportation.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall