

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

I wish to thank you for meeting with me during your October visit to Colorado. I appreciated our constructive conversation.

During our meeting, I highlighted the importance and relevance of the Transportation Technology Center (TTC) located near Pueblo, Colorado to our nation's security. Ensuring the security of our surface transportation system equates to protecting millions of Americans who commute to work by train or live near a rail line, as well as protecting billions of dollars in commerce. In fact, it is estimated that \$65 billion in freight revenue transported by rail alone depends on a secure rail system. As you know, the Department of Homeland Security has had a growing presence at the TTC in its work to ensure that first responders and safety officials from across the country have access to the best technology and methodology to prevent, detect and respond to threats to our surface transportation system. I commend you and your staff for this ongoing work.

In the summer of 2010, I was pleased to learn that the Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, Transportation Security Administrator, John Pistole, and Assistant Administrator at the National Preparedness Directorate at FEMA, Andrew Mitchell, visited the facility to see the work at the center first-hand. During my most recent visit and tour of the facility in August, 2010, I met with many employees who operate the center and I witnessed the value that this facility adds to keeping our roads and railways safe.

I urge you to keep this facility's capabilities at the forefront when making decisions to fund and carry out your agency's mission to keep all of America's surface transportation safe for travel and commerce. I would also encourage you to visit this facility at your earliest convenience as DHS strengthens its role there.

I look forward to working with you in support of this important federal asset in Pueblo. Together, we can meet the current and growing need to protect America's surface transportation system and in turn protect the billions of dollars in commerce that depend on its security. Should you or your staff need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Warm regards,



Mark Udall  
U.S. Senator