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ALLARD SEEKS DELAY IN EPA OMBUDSMAN TRANSFER BY WHITMAN TRANSFER TO TAKE PLACE JANUARY 13 IF NOT POSTPONED

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has written to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman asking her to delay the transfer of the EPA Ombudsman. The transfer is scheduled to take place on January 13, 2002.

“The negative results of this decision must be considered - Congress must have time to fully analyze the repercussions of this move before it occurs,” wrote Allard to Whitman. “In light of this, I must request that you delay transfer of the Office of the Ombudsman until further analysis of the effects of this move can be made.”

In March of last year Allard and Idaho U.S. Senators Mike Crapo and Larry Craig introduced legislation (S. 606) to make the Office of the Ombudsman independent.

“Congress is currently considering legislation on the organizational structure of the Office of the EPA Ombudsman,” said Allard. “It seems to me that any transfer of the Ombudsman until Congress has an opportunity to discuss the legislation is premature.”

In addition to the January 8 letter to Whitman, Allard also visited over the phone with Whitman last week seeking a delay in the transfer.

“I am hopeful that my phone conversation and letter to EPA Administrator Whitman will demonstrate to her how important this issue is to me and many Colorado residents who have been helped by the Ombudsman,” added Allard.

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