

## The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce

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## The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Supports Senator Allard in Funding Chemical Demilitarization

With the recent delay in funding for the chemical demilitarization by Congress, the Board of Directors of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce directed President & CEO of the Greater Pueblo Chamber to send the following letter of support to Senator Allard's office:

Dear Senator Allard:

The members of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce and the Pueblo community are very grateful for all of your efforts to move the chemical demilitarization project at the Pueblo Depot Activity forward. We share your concerns that the freeze on expenditure of funds, which you and other delegation members worked to restore in the FY '05 defense appropriations, will delay the project.

Through this long process thus far, the Pueblo community has worked diligently with federal officials to ensure that decisions were made in the best interest of all parties for a timely and effective demilitarization of the munitions stored here. Our efforts emerged through local officials, civic organizations, interest groups and our 1,200 business members as well as the State of Colorado. We engaged in a cooperative effort that we believed would provide for the safe and cost-effective destruction of the munitions.

Now, we understand that the Army decided to revisit the design of the facilities and thwarted not only the efforts locally but your hard work in Congress to see this project move forward, as similar efforts have at other sites around the country. While we are aware that some non-design specific activity will take place in preparation for the project, the delay in funding, we are certain, will result in increased cost and potentially increased health and environmental concerns for the citizens and community of Pueblo.

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, we wish to continue to be helpful to the overall effort. We ask for your ongoing support and leadership and seek your advice on what we can do in the coming months to convince the necessary federal officials that it is time to move forward.

The importance of the demilitarization of munitions at Pueblo Depot Activity cannot be understated, from a local, state and federal perspective. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in any way that will advance the project schedule.

Sincerely,

Rod Slyhoff  
President & CEO

While the Chamber Board of Directors recognizes the budget challenges that the federal government faces, the Pueblo community has been more than patient in waiting for the destruction of the stored chemical weapons. Once the destruction is complete, Pueblo will experience the full benefits of being able to promote the Army Depot for economic development for the community.

### Networking Tips

**Tip # 36 – The Power of Questions:** One of the most powerful ways to meet new people is to ask a question in front of a large group. Sit up front and to one side so most of the audience will see your face when you stand to ask a thoughtful and concise question. State your name and organization. Congratulations, you have just introduced yourself to everyone in the room!