

Wayne Allard

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CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944

SENATOR ALLARD URGES NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO LOCATE NEUTRINO LAB AT HENDERSON MINE SITE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) has written a letter urging the National Science Foundation to locate its new National Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at the Henderson Mine site located in Clear Creek County near Berthoud Pass.

“It is my belief that the Henderson Mine location is ideal for the research goals set for this laboratory,” Senator Allard said Wednesday. “I believe this bold initiative will lead to the creation of a facility which will further enhance the United States as the unchallenged leader in sub-atomic nuclear research.”

In his letter to Dr. Michael Turner, Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the National Science Foundation, Senator Allard said he recognizes, “... the importance of this scientific endeavor as reported by expert panels from the National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy.”

“Underground research of this kind could answer many questions that scientists have pondered since the beginning of time,” the Senator wrote.

“I would like to applaud you for initiating a fair and transparent process of selection for both the experiments that will be performed and the site location. I encourage you to provide sufficient time and funds to allow all possible sites involved the opportunity to prepare proposals that will be judged on an equal basis,” the Senator’s letter said.

The laboratory research will focus on under ground nucleon decay and neutrino observation. A neutrino is an uncharged elementary particle believed to be massless or have a very small mass that interacts only rarely with other particles.

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After touring the mine site, I believe the Henderson Mine location provides many synergies and benefits for achieving the research goals the National Science Foundation envision. The Henderson Mine provides easy access to top research institutes throughout Colorado including Colorado School of Mines, CU, CSU, and NREL.

1. I recognize the importance of this scientific endeavor as reported by expert panels from the National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Underground research of this kind could answer many questions that scientists have pondered since the beginning of time.
2. I am happy to be involved in a project that will raise the stature of Colorado as an international leader in science and technology. The collaboration between the major universities, the science community and all levels of government reflects our commitment to education and research in science and technology.
3. I look forward to continuing to work with this coalition to support Henderson Mine as the preferred location for the National Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory.
4. I appreciate the Arapaho project's vision in 2000 which led to the current HUSEP organization championing as the site for the National Laboratory.