

**Paul Chard, DVM**

Cattleman's Resource, Inc.
223 Colorado Ave. Brush, CO 80723
Phone: (970) 842-0CRI (0274)
Email: cri.store@qwestoffice.net

To Keith Roehr, DVM

I am writing you in regards to the future of our Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory. I am aware of the upcoming Senate Bill 154 that would help fund personnel at RMRAHL with State funding from the Veterinary Vaccine and Service Fund. I believe that this funding will be essential to ensure the continued excellence in service and quality that RMRAHL provides for the livestock industry of Colorado.

As a large animal veterinarian in eastern Colorado, I am intimately involved with livestock owners in protecting the health and quality of life of their animals and the public as well as the economic viability of this great industry. As you know, we are continually faced with new challenges that are presented by disease and natural occurrences. Many of the diseases of concern also pose a great risk to public health. The success of our actions depends on a swift and appropriate response to these challenges.

Laboratory testing is an indispensable tool that we have to help control the severity and scope of a disease outbreak. There are some important aspects of laboratory service that must be met in order to ensure full compliance and resolution in a specific case. First of all, lab clients must be able to easily and accurately communicate pertinent information with lab personnel. The lab must also provide excellent accuracy and quality in testing with a quick response time. Laboratory testing must be as low cost as possible in order to ensure full testing and animal movement compliance with State and Federal regulations by livestock owners. Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab provides the livestock industry and the people of Colorado with outstanding communication as well as quick, accurate, and reasonably priced testing.

I routinely work with some of the other veterinary diagnostic labs in Colorado and other states on cases that require testing that RMRAHL can't offer. I have yet to find another lab that can provide the level of excellent service and communication that RMRAHL provides.

I have spoken with Laboratory Director Tiffany Bringer about the future of Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab. With the current state of the economy and the unsure future of Federal funding I think we are in danger of limiting the capacity of this lab to function in the future. Passage of Senate Bill 154 would help ensure the success of RMRAHL far into the future. It would be a great disservice to the people of Colorado if we allowed anything to limit or stop the existence of Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory.

Sincerely,

Paul Chard, DVM