

# Las Animas County



## Board of County Commissioners

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*Gary D. Hill*  
Chairman Pro Tem

*Jim D. Montoya*  
Chairman

*James Vigil*  
Commissioner

April 1, 2009

Colorado House of Representatives  
House Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources Committee Members:

On behalf of the citizens of Las Animas County, this Board extends its appreciation to you for your consideration of HB 09-1317, and respectfully requests your support for passage of this bill.

The threat of the expansion of the U.S. Army's Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS), located entirely within Las Animas County, has been an ongoing concern for the past four years. Despite the U.S. Army's failure to make its case to the United States Congress on justification of its need for the expansion of the PCMS, it continues to pursue an expansion. Further, those efforts by the U.S. Army continue in direct contravention of a law enacted by Congress in 2008, that placed a moratorium on the expansion issue.

The United State Congress also ordered the U.S. Army to document and prove up its need for expansion of the PCMS and submit its justification to the General Accounting Office. Subsequent analysis by the General Accounting Office reflects that the U.S. Army has failed to justify the need for expansion of the PCMS.

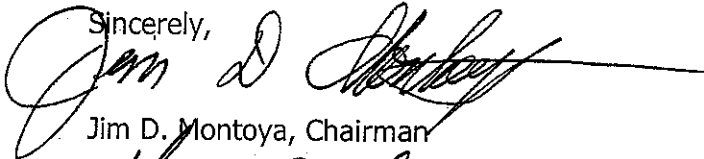
In 2007, the Colorado Legislature passed, and Governor Ritter signed into law HB 07-1069, that withdrew consent by the State of Colorado for the federal government to acquire land within Colorado by means of eminent domain for military training purposes.

Despite all of the foregoing efforts to date to persuade the U.S. Army to terminate its pursuit of expansion, the U.S. Army continues to seek out acquisition of land for the expansion of the PCMS. HB 09-1317, now before your Committee reinforces the position of the State of Colorado taken in 2007, and would preclude the U.S. Army from acquiring State-owned land for expansion purposes.

Your support is sought for the passage of HB 09-1317, in an effort to bring the U.S. Army's plan for expansion of the PCMS to a conclusion so that the land owners within the area of interest may live their lives and pursue their livelihood without the continued threat of expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Attached to this letter, please find a copy of the formal Position Statement of this Board, adopted in January of this year, reflecting opposition to expansion of the PCMS. On behalf of the citizens of Las Animas County, this Board extends its appreciation for your support of passage of HB 09-1317.

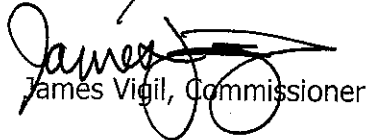
Sincerely,



Jim D. Montoya, Chairman



Gary D. Hill, Chairman Pro Tem



James Vigil, Commissioner