

Coffman Introduces Bill to Permanently Ban Use of Condemnation to Expand PCMS

(WASHINGTON) – Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) today introduced a bill prohibiting the future use of eminent domain authority by the United States Army to expand the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southeastern Colorado. The bill, H.R. 5067, forbids the federal government from acquiring property located near PCMS for the purpose of expansion if the acquisition would require condemnation of the property.

“Although the U.S. Army has repeatedly stated that it will not resort to condemnation, there are many in southeastern Colorado who question whether the Army will keep its word.

I understand the need for expanding PCMS but the use of condemnation is not the answer. My bill takes that possibility off the table,” Coffman stated.

The bill is intended to permanently protect the private property rights of land owners in southeastern Colorado.

Coffman continued, "We must respect the private property rights of those who own ranch lands in the proposed 100,000 acre expansion area. They should neither have to fear that the government will take their land nor the worry that government, at any level, will restrict their rights by making it difficult for them to sell or lease their land to the U.S. Army should they choose to do so."

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