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COLORADO MOUNTED PATROL

August 20, 2009

Governor Bill Richardson
Office of the Governor
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

The New Mexico Search and Rescue Council (also known as the New Mexico Emergency Services Council) promotes the common interest of over 30 volunteer teams, representing several hundred volunteers who are dedicated to the saving of life and the relief of human suffering during wilderness emergencies in the state of New Mexico. Among our many goals is to “develop an efficient, working relationship with all levels of government.” Our purpose in writing this letter today to you is to express our views as they relate to the New Mexico Search and Rescue Review Board.

The Board was created by the NM Search and Rescue Act of 1978 (24-15A-6 NMSA 1978). The Council believes the Board should be an important component of our search and rescue management structure. Unfortunately the Board has missed a number of opportunities to contribute and enhance the quality of search and rescue in the state and has not reviewed or reported on a number of recent important and high profile missions.

We understand that your office is in the process of reconstituting the Board membership and is now reviewing recommendations from the agencies that, according to the Act, are to be represented (I have been recommended to represent NMSARC). As you and your office work through the process, we recommend that an entirely new set of members be appointed. Aside from the fact that their terms have all expired, we believe that with former members, the activity level of the Review Board might return to its past level of inactivity. New energy, new perspectives and genuine interest will hopefully ensure the Board serves the purpose for which it was intended.

The New Mexico Search and Rescue Council is dedicated to supporting an effective search and rescue effort to save the lives of those in need in New Mexico's wilderness; an effective Board can be a valuable resource to these efforts. We would be pleased to meet with you and your staff at your convenience to discuss any and all of our views and recommendations. The New Mexico Search and Rescue Council and its membership stand ready to support your efforts in any way we can. Please feel free to contact me at (505) 603-2259, or grunte@arescorporation.com, if you or your staff needs further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Runte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gerry Runte
Member of the Board
New Mexico Search and Rescue Council

CC:

Secretary John Denko, New Mexico Department of Public Safety
Chief Faron W. Segotta, New Mexico State Police
Ms. Debbie Romero, Office of the Governor
Board Members, New Mexico Search and Rescue Council