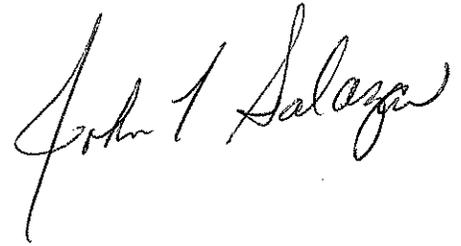


Opening Statement  
Congressman John T. Salazar  
T&I Aviation Subcommittee Hearing  
Runway Safety  
February 13, 2008



**Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this hearing.**

**We have all seen the recent news stories about congestion, near collisions, and miscommunication between pilots and air traffic controllers on our nation's runways.**

**It's clear that more attention needs to be dedicated to the issue of runway safety.**

**AIP funding is a key component in making improvements to airports which enhance runway safety.**

**I know that CDOT's Aeronautics division has worked with the FAA Runway Safety Teams in implementing solutions to airport hot spots.**

**Currently they are working on a runway safety issue at Pueblo Airport.**

**But while they have come up with a list of good projects identified during Runway Safety Action Team evaluations, there is little or no money to implement them.**

**So it falls on the states to fill in the funding gaps.**

**FAA needs to raise the importance of runway safety and they need to financially support this issue with a strong AIP program.**

**A few months ago, I wrote a letter to the FAA, asking to move the ASDE-X (Airport Surface Detection Equipment) up in priority for DIA.**

**ASDE-X improves runway safety, so the more funding support this program has the faster equipment like ASDE-X will be installed at places like DIA and other airports around the country.**

**If we are serious about improving runway safety, we have to provide the funding support needed to implement the projects that will improve the system.**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**