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May 25, 2005

Gerald A. Reynolds, Chairman
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20425

Abigail Thersnstrom, Vice Chair
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20425

Dear Commissioners Reynolds and Thersnstrom:

I have been informed that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has voted to close its Rocky Mountain Regional Office (RMRO) in Denver, Colorado. I urge the Commission to carefully consider the potential impact this closure could have on addressing civil rights issues in North Dakota.

As you know, the Rocky Mountain Region Office (RMRO) currently serves my home state of North Dakota. This office has operated with minimal staff, carrying out many important duties that include acting as a clearinghouse for information on citizen's civil rights, referring discrimination claims to appropriate entities and supporting the work of the North Dakota Advisory Commission. Just last year, the RMRO hosted public meetings in North Dakota on matters facing Native Americans in the United States as well as assisted hundreds of people who believe that they have been the victims of discrimination.

As a Member of Congress responsible for enacting a fiscally-sound annual federal budget, I applaud your efforts to save tax-payer dollars. However, I am concerned that your actions could hinder the Commission's ability to fulfill its mission. Therefore, I respectfully ask that the Commission consult with all interested parties before taking any action..

Sincerely,

EARL POMEROY
United States Congress

EP:mr