



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

March 6, 2007

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Women of the Mountains International Conference. This is an extremely important gathering because of today's many challenges facing women and children in developing nations.

Forums, such as this one, are vitally important to build bridges between nations, ethnicities and diverse political practices. The Conference's goal to examine and discuss best practices among the world's mountain communities can only bring us closer together.

I want to pay tribute to my colleagues and friends from Utah Valley State College and the Utah-Russia Institute who have worked closely with their partners from Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan to undertake this significant initiative. I appreciate the support of representatives from our neighboring states; and hope these partnerships will continue with other mountain communities around the world.

I look forward to welcoming similar regional gatherings in the future. Best wishes for a very successful and interesting Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Orrin Hatch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "O".

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OGH:hrb

