

WHERE DOES KEN SALAZAR STAND ON ESTATE TAX REFORM

Tomorrow, the Senate will vote to repeal the estate tax and it is unknown where Sen. Ken Salazar stands on estate tax reform. Despite previous statements in support of estate tax reform, Sen. Salazar has been silent on how we will vote. If he votes against the motion to proceed, which is just technical language meaning a vote to *consider* estate tax reform, he will indicate he believes the appropriate estate tax rate is 55 percent with a \$1 million exemption.

Consider Sen. Salazar's 2004 campaign platform for United States Senate. In a document titled "Restoring our Heart and Soul: Agriculture and Rural Colorado," Salazar proclaimed he supported:

"Raise the estate tax exemption to \$10 million so that families can pass their farm or ranch or small business on to their children. A family exemption of \$10 million will make sure that more than 99% of family farms, ranches and small businesses can pass to the next generation free from any federal estate taxes."

This statement in his campaign platform clearly indicates that he supports reforming the current onerous estate tax structure. However, his silence has been deafening whether he will vote tomorrow to proceed to consider reforming the estate tax. It is a disgrace that Sen. Salazar vigorously campaigned on reforming the estate tax and now faced with the actual vote will turn his back on the small businesses and family farms of Colorado.

If no changes are made the estate tax rates will move back to 55 percent with a trivial \$1 million exemption. It's hard to believe that after such strong support for estate tax reform and repeal, Senator Salazar will actually be voting against this legislation.