

February 21, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
U.S. Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520



Utah Scholarship Foundation  
887 North 100 East, Ste. #4  
Lehi, Utah 84043  
[www.missutahpageant.org](http://www.missutahpageant.org)

Re: International Women's Conference in Utah, USA – "Women of the Mountains"

Dear Mrs. Secretary of State,

I am writing you as Miss Utah 2010 and one of the leaders of the youth advocacy group in the state of Utah to promote the United Nations agenda on sustainable mountain development with focus on gender issues. On behalf of the organizing committee of the "Women of the Mountains" conference, I invite you to take part at our major gathering on March 8-9, 2011 in the State of Utah. With the co-sponsorship of the United Nations "Mountain Partnership," the conference is co-hosted by Utah Valley University and the Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions ([www.womenofthemountains.org](http://www.womenofthemountains.org)).

We would be honored to have you or a representative among the participants of the conference as women who contribute immensely to the promotion both of gender roles on a global scale and sustainable development in part. I salute your statement during confirmation as the Secretary of State on January 13, 2009: "Of particular concern to me is the plight of women and girls, who comprise the majority of the world's unhealthy, unschooled, unfed, and unpaid. If half of the world's population remains vulnerable to economic, political, legal, and social marginalization, our hope of advancing democracy and prosperity will remain in serious jeopardy. We still have a long way to go and the United States must remain an unambiguous and unequivocal voice in support of women's rights in every country, every region, and on every continent." As a result of your efforts in that direction the State Department now has a special office dealing with global women's issues, which is headed by Ambassador-At-Large Melanne Verveer, prominent advocate for women rights.

This will be the second time an entire U.S. region (Rocky Mountains) will examine problems of gender issues in the context of sustainable mountain development globally.

While serving as Miss Utah I have had many opportunities to travel the state and meet with women concerning our roles in the community. Given the unique perspective this has given me, I have recognized Utah's ability to become the hub for a global discussion about women and their roles in discussing issues of sustainable development. We have many motivated, talented, and empowered women that would be an inspiration to other women around the world. We also live in a mountainous region where many challenges are faced and met consistently. These women care about issues that you have advocated for such as education, gender roles, and the potential of women. I admire your ability to bring women together regarding these important issues that we all know are so pertinent to all of our success.

I am proud to be a student at Utah Valley University where, as a strong woman, I am able to contribute to conferences such as this. The United Nations commended Utah Valley University for hosting the first Conference "Women of the Mountains" on March 8-10, 2007. A number of important results were achieved in the integration of Rocky Mountain communities into the network of global mountain communities. The Secretary General of the United Nations mentioned in his report to the General Assembly (August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009) that: "*In response to the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women (the final document of The Women of the Mountains Conference, 2007, organized by Utah Valley University and the Utah-Russia Institute in Orem, Utah, United States of America), several institutions in the Rocky Mountain States of North America established a regional network on sustainable mountain development and gender issues. This led to exchanges of state legislatures/parliaments between Rocky Mountain States and mountain nations in Central Asia; including support of sales...of hand-made local handicrafts from the mountains of Central Asia in the United States and the funding of cultural exchanges.*"

Our goal is to more closely integrate Northern American mountain communities with the Mountain Partnership and Mountain Forum. In our efforts to bring the state of Utah together for this conference I, along with other Mountain Partnership advocates, have encouraged cities to join The Mountain Partnership. Thus far, Salt Lake City, Orem City, and Park City have joined and showed their support for these issues and conference. This gathering will help us to further strengthen ties with the global mountain regions. I feel that your presence and your ideas on cooperation between mountain communities will enhance the quality of the conference and make it a more complete success. Additionally, it will help mobilize the women of the Rocky Mountain region of the U.S. to benefit our partners around the world.

I hope you will be able to attend to our gathering or send a representative. Ambassador Verveer was well aware about our gathering in 2007, but due to certain obligations couldn't come and recommended us several people from "Vital Voices" to take part at our conference.

If you have questions, please communicate with me by e-mail or by phone: [2010missutah@gmail.com](mailto:2010missutah@gmail.com) or 435-671-0001. OR, you may wish to communicate with the Co-organizer of the Conference Ambassador Baktybek Abdrisaev, [abdrisba@uvu.edu](mailto:abdrisba@uvu.edu), phone: 801-863-8351 (office).

With warm regards,

*Christina Lowe*

Christina Lowe  
Miss Utah 2010