

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dear Members of the AMS Council and MAA Board of Governors,

I am writing with a request for immediate action regarding the Joint AMS/MAA annual meetings scheduled for Denver, Colorado in January of 1995. I regularly participate in and make presentations at both AMS and MAA sessions at annual meetings.

In the November general election, the voters of Colorado approved a constitutional amendment aimed against homosexuals. The Colorado constitution will now prohibit any state or local laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination of any kind, e.g., in employment, housing, etc. In particular, antidiscrimination laws already existing in Denver, Boulder, and Aspen are now abolished as unconstitutional, and discrimination against homosexuals is explicitly protected by the Colorado constitution. There has already been an increase in violence against homosexuals there since the election.

I request that the AMS and MAA begin the process of rescheduling the 1995 annual meetings to a location outside Colorado, and also contact the governor and state legislature immediately to explain and discuss this decision. Let me briefly explain why:

- It would be both unfair and insulting to the many homosexual members of the AMS and MAA to be asked to attend an annual meeting in an openly hostile and potentially more dangerous place.
- It is important that this dangerous and intolerant action in Colorado not become a national trend, and the AMS and MAA, along with many other organizations, can help ensure this by not being accomplices. Already many organizations like ours are making such decisions by cancelling convention bookings. One might hope that this will also influence the people of Colorado to change their actions, if not their prejudices.
- Finally, many heterosexual members, like myself, would also be unwilling to be accomplices to this trend by attending an annual meeting in Colorado, and thus attendance and program quality in Denver would suffer, and many members would be alienated.

I realize that much fine planning on the part of AMS and MAA staff has probably already been invested in our Denver choice for 1995. However, this issue is important enough for the future of our nation that we must change the meeting place. To do less would, I believe, be

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irresponsible. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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