

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 20, 2015

Senator Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
412 Russell Senate Building

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
412 Russell Senate Building

Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Blumenthal:

We write to request that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee organize a site visit and field hearing at the Eastern Colorado Health Care System Replacement Facility (Denver Replacement Facility). The visit will provide an opportunity for the Committee to see first-hand the extensive management and financial issues that continue to plague this project. The Denver Replacement Facility project and similar replacement projects in other states are vital to future care for veterans and, as such, require careful analysis before the VA undertakes construction on this scale in the future.

As you know, the Denver Replacement Facility has encountered significant construction delays, cost overruns, and payment issues. In December 2014, the U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals found that the VA failed to meet its contractual obligations and designed a project that would cost more than \$1 billion, a \$400 million overrun from the original contract price. The Board also found that the VA did not have sufficient funds to pay for the construction, had no plans to request additional resources, and owed the contractor, Kiewit-Turner, \$157 million for past costs. While a short-term agreement between the VA and Kiewit-Turner has been reached that has allowed for construction to resume, agreement on a solution that allows for the satisfactory completion of the facility has not been reached.

We hope the Committee examines the issues at the Denver Replacement Facility to develop a fuller understanding of the project's ongoing challenges and to help us identify a long-term solution to complete the work. Our delegation continues to work in a collaborative and bi-cameral manner on this issue and is unified behind the goal of finding a way forward that is acceptable to taxpayers and that provides the 700,000 veterans in the Rocky Mountain Region the world-class facility they deserve.

We thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of veterans everywhere.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator