

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
House Committee On Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Corrine Brown
Ranking Member
House Committee On Veterans Affairs
333 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dan Benishek
Chairman
House Committee On Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee On Health
514 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Ranking Member
House Committee On Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee On Health
1019 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Miller and Benishek, and Ranking Members Brown and Brownley:

We would like to thank you for holding a Legislative Hearing on December 8, 2015 on VA's legislative proposal regarding Fiscal Year 2016 Construction Projects. The VA's construction legislative request would authorize eight major construction projects and eighteen major lease projects for the Veterans Health Administration across the country. The VA's proposal also contains the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in French Camp, California, a project for which we have long advocated. We request the Committee move to take action on authorizing the FY16 Construction Projects.

The French Camp CBOC will serve 87,000 veterans across a wide geographic area that includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Amador Counties, among others. California's Central Valley veterans confront many obstacles accessing the care they need from the VA, including long hours for routine appointments. Congress approved the Central Valley community based outpatient clinic and community living center in 2004 as part of the VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Initiative. In 2010, Congress appropriated \$55 million for land acquisition and to fund construction planning. The project is ready to begin construction and our Central Valley veterans are earnest to see progress on a project promised to them in 2004.

The fiscal year 2016 Omnibus appropriations package provides \$1.24 billion for major construction projects. These funds are sufficient to fund the VA's top FY16 major construction projects, including the long overdue project at French Camp.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring our veterans receive the best health care in the country and for your consideration of this request. Due to the lack of quality health care facilities for veterans in the Central Valley of California and parts of the country, we request that you authorize the FY16 major construction projects as soon as possible so that veterans in the Central Valley and nation can access the state-of-the-art medical services they deserve.

Sincerely,



Jerry McNerney
United States Representative



Jeff Denham
United States Representative