

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2013

Glenn Haggstrom
Principal Executive Director
Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Haggstrom:

As advocates of improved services for our veterans, we joined together to support the construction of a new stand-alone Veteran's Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Aurora to provide high quality care to the over 700,000 veterans in our region.

However, two years into the project, local subcontractors, including Veteran-owned companies, have informed us they have not been paid for work already completed during the construction of the new facility. Collectively, our offices have received inquiries from over twenty subcontractors, including two companies we're told went out of business as a result of non-payment. We are also concerned about the backlog of change orders, with at least one still unresolved over a year and a half after the work was completed.

We look forward to reviewing the VA's White Paper which will provide a retrospective view on the Aurora hospital construction project. We were pleased to learn VA officials are in the process of reviewing all outstanding subcontractor payment requests, and in order to ensure this issue does not resurface, we would request that within seven days the VA outline how it intends to remedy future nonpayment issues and ensure the subcontractors will not face unnecessarily delayed payments moving forward. It is our hope the VA will respond to us in the most expeditious manner possible.

Given the importance of this project to our veteran community and the significant taxpayer investment, we were also alarmed to learn a firm fixed cost for the construction has not yet been agreed on by the VA and the prime contractor. With 15 percent of the construction already completed, a fixed price agreement is long overdue, and we would expect the VA would take immediate steps to resolve this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Mark Udall
United States Senator