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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2015

Mr. Richard Griffin  
Deputy Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
801 I Street, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Griffin,

We ask that you commence an independent investigation of the Denver VAMC project, along with any other ongoing major medical facility projects that have experienced unanticipated cost overruns and delays.

Last December, the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals (CBCA) ruled, in a dispute between VA and the contractor on the project, that VA did not present the contractor with a design that could be built within the amount of funds allotted for the project. The CBCA also found that VA improperly used the integrated design-construct contracting mechanism for this project. VA recently announced that a review of the project by the Army Corps of Engineers estimates that \$1.73 billion will be required to build this facility, as currently designed.

An improved understanding of the ongoing challenges in various construction projects will assist Congress in determining how to make the best use of taxpayer dollars with regard to VA construction.

As a part of that review, we ask that you examine the entire construction process, from identifying facility design elements to contract and project management to project cost and schedule development. We also ask that you place a particular focus on whether adequate oversight and controls are in place at key decision points to ensure that project management decisions are based on relevant, actionable data.

We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson  
Chairman



Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member