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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2015

Senator Cory Gardner
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Eastern Colorado Health Care System Replacement Facility (Denver Replacement Facility). The cost overruns, schedule delays, and management issues that continue to plague the Denver Replacement Facility indicate serious issues with VA's medical construction programs.

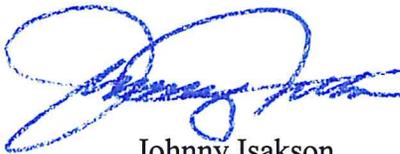
As you are aware, VA has been allocated over \$800 million for the Denver Replacement Facility and yet construction is just over half complete. VA expects to request that Congress authorize an additional \$200 to \$240 million for the interim contract and an as yet undetermined amount for final completion of the project. While the interim contract allowed construction to resume, there is no identified path to complete the facility nor to end the systemic construction management failures, of which the Denver Replacement Facility is emblematic. Clearly, there is a need for further congressional oversight and further reforms.

We anticipate that VA will shortly complete a congressionally mandated independent review of its health care delivery system and major medical construction projects. We look forward to working with you to evaluate the recommendations of this comprehensive review, combined with forthcoming specific recommendations of the Army Corps review for the Denver Replacement Facility.

One of the most critical functions of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs is to conduct site visits and field hearings in order to aggressively exercise our oversight responsibilities. We appreciate your bipartisan work on behalf of veterans in the Rocky Mountain Region and will work with you to schedule a site visit and field hearing at the Denver Replacement Facility.

Thank you for your request and for your commitment to our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
Chairman



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member

Senator Cory Gardner
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cc: Senator Michael Bennet
Representative Ken Buck
Representative Mike Coffman
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Doug Lamborn
Representative Ed Perlmutter
Representative Jared Polis
Representative Scott Tipton