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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 16, 2010

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

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The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veteran's Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

In 2007, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans for a CBOC in Brunswick, Georgia. My office was assured in the summer of 2008 that the Brunswick CBOC would be operational by June 2009. The VA missed this deadline, but assured Coastal Georgia's veterans that the Brunswick clinic would open within the year. The opening date has been delayed two additional times since the summer of 2009, and the more than 5,000 veterans in the Brunswick area are still waiting.

On August 26, 2009, Joseph Williams from your department stated to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs "The Brunswick CBOC is currently in the lease advertisement process for clinic space. VA will evaluate offers received which will include site selection. Proposals were due by July 31, 2009, and VA is reviewing these responses. VA currently expects to open the clinic in February 2010". To date, a lease has not been signed though site selection is complete. VA personnel assigned to this lease negotiation have blocked direct contact between your legal team and legal counsel for the selected site, a step that has delayed lease negotiations. Bureaucratic road blocks such as these continue to obstruct progress, and I am concerned that the opening date will be delayed once again.

The failure to complete this project in a timely manner has seriously strained the faith of local veterans in your department's commitment to their care, and we are hopeful that an expeditious announcement of the location and opening date will be made in the near future.

I respectfully request that you ensure the CBOC in Brunswick be opened as soon as possible. I appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Kingston". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress