

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

April 23, 2012

The Honorable Eric Shinseki
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

While I thank the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for providing the veterans of Southwest Louisiana an updated timeline on the completion of the Lafayette and Lake Charles Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) facilities, I find this timeline wholly unacceptable. As such, I reiterate my request that the Department use the expedited sole source procurement authority provided under 41 U.S.C. § 3304.

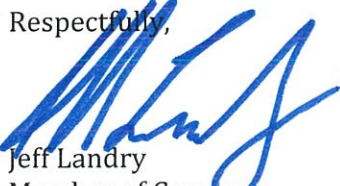
On March 27, 2012 my office made inquires of your staff as to why sole source procurement authority was not being employed. At that time, your staff indicated they would discuss this strategy amongst the VA leasing team and the Office of General Counsel and report back to my office. We have yet to hear back.

As you are well aware, 41 U.S.C. § 3304(a)(7) allows a federal entity to use this expedited procurement authority when it is "necessary in the public interest." I can think of no federal project in South Louisiana that carries a greater necessity than quick construction of these facilities.

It has been 27 days since my office made this inquiry and we have received no response. As such, I am now making this request through official correspondence: has the Department officially considered using this expedited authority and if so why have they determined quick construction to be outside of public necessity?

This request is very important to Acadiana's veteran community. As such, I await your prompt response to this inquiry.

Respectfully,


Jeff Landry
Member of Congress