

CLAIRE McCASKILL  
MISSOURI

717 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6154  
FAX: (202) 228-6326  
<http://mccaskill.senate.gov>

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 14, 2012

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT,  
CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

It has come to my attention that the Missouri Veterans Commission is currently waiting on final confirmation from the Department of Veterans Affairs of funding the state of Missouri will receive through the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. As you know, this grant program assists states in the construction and renovation of state veterans homes.

The Missouri Veterans Commission, which operates Missouri's veterans homes, received notice from the VA on February 2, 2012, that funds were available through the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. In accordance with past practice, Missouri believed it would be receiving some of those funds. The Commission proceeded with designing and bidding six projects. The bids were opened on May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> and the awards are still pending to the contractors. However, delays in receiving a final award letter from the VA has required the Commission to twice seek extensions from these contractors, with the most recent extension request occurring earlier this month.

The construction and renovation projects identified by the Missouri Veterans Commission will improve the safety and quality of life of veterans living in Missouri's veteran homes. Bureaucratic red tape should not put the future of these projects at risk. I ask that you ensure that the Missouri Veterans Commission's projects receive a prompt response.

Thank you for your service to our country and to our nation's veterans. I know you share my resolve in ensuring that we keep faith with those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator

555 INDEPENDENCE  
ROOM 1600  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703  
(573) 651-0964  
FAX: (573) 334-4278

915 EAST ASH STREET  
COLUMBIA, MO 65201  
(573) 442-7130  
FAX: (573) 442-7140

4141 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
SUITE 101  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111  
(816) 421-1639  
FAX: (816) 421-2562

5850 DELMAR BOULEVARD  
SUITE A  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112  
(314) 367-1364  
FAX: (314) 361-8649

324 PARK CENTRAL WEST  
SUITE 101  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65806  
(417) 868-8745  
FAX: (417) 831-1349