

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Denis McDonough
U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

We write you today to convey our continued support for the Veterans Hospital in Tulsa (VHiT). Accepted as a participant in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' CHIP-IN Program, this project is in collaboration with Oklahoma State University (OSU). Through a public-private partnership, this project will provide greater access to care for the over 115,000 veterans in the northeast Oklahoma Veterans Affairs service area. We thank the VA for its foresight and efforts in confronting this critical need and the tremendous work your staff has performed in advancing this project.

The VHiT project will provide a much needed, state-of-the-art veterans hospital facility in Tulsa. This facility will allow better access for veterans and their families and, through collaboration with the OSU Medical Center, will provide increased medical services. The Muskogee VA facility cares for 47,000 of the 115,000 veterans in northeast Oklahoma. Over seventy percent of those 47,000 veterans currently travel from Tulsa to Muskogee to receive care. Thus the new VHiT could enable up to thirty percent more (14,000) veterans to receive care annually while reducing transportation burdens for veterans and their loved ones. The partnership between the VA hospital and OSU Medical Center creates shared benefits and increased capabilities. These translate into increased access to resources for veterans and higher quality of health outcomes.

As contract negotiations enter their final phase we ask that you prioritize review of the project to ensure its timely execution. The potential risk of delay would severely hinder several milestones and carry with it increased construction costs. We greatly appreciate your continued support in keeping this project on schedule and look forward to its successful completion.

Should you or any member of your staff have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

CC: Dr. Michael Brennan, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management