

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2015

The Honorable Robert McDonald
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420-0001

Dear Secretary McDonald:

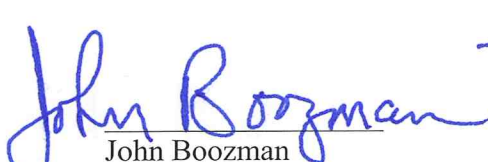
We write to ensure the timely provision of grant funds to assist in the construction of the North Little Rock State Veterans Home. On March 3, 2014, over \$18 million in State Home Construction Grant funds were approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the construction of this home, but these funds have not yet been provided to the state. As you know, in order to receive the federal funds for the Veterans Home, the state must have possession of the land by March 29, 2015. The land at the site is currently owned by the VA, and the land transfer must first be reviewed and approved by the VA Secretary. We request that you work to ensure that these funds are provided soon in order to assist our aging and disabled veterans who will rely on this new facility for essential services and housing.

As you may know, in 2012, the State Veterans Home in Little Rock fell into disrepair and was permanently closed. Arkansas is in need of the new facility in North Little Rock to better serve our veterans. After over a year of hard work and dedication from the Arkansas State Legislature, the Governor of Arkansas, VA officials, local community members, and Members of Congress, \$7.5 million in state funds were allocated, a site was chosen for the new facility, and, as noted above, the VA approved a grant of over \$18 million to support the project.

It is our understanding that the land transfer will not be approved by the March 29, 2015 deadline; however, the state may be granted equitable relief in the form of an extension as to not miss out on the VA State Home Construction Grant. We remain committed to ensuring that these funds are fully allocated to support this vital project for Arkansas and our veterans who have served this country bravely. We request that you approve the equitable relief for the state and urge your timely approval of the land transfer to ensure that there is no lapse in funding for the project in this fiscal year.

We thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you and the VA to support this new Veterans Home in Arkansas.

Sincerely,


John Boozman
United States Senator


Tom Cotton
United States Senator


French Hill
Member of Congress