

JEFF DENHAM
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS,
PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Robert McDonald
Secretary
The Department of Veterans' Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation by the Senate as the new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. These past months have revealed as never before the urgent need for deep reforms at the Department of Veterans Affairs if it is to meet its charge of "caring for him who shall have borne the battle." As a member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs I look forward to working closely together as you begin the critical work of restoring trust in the agency and effectiveness to its operations.

All I ask of you is this: be honest. If you need more resources, ask for them. If you need a statutory fix to address a problem, tell the Committee immediately. If there is an incident in a congressional district, notify that member quickly rather than waiting on a committee subpoena before producing documentation. The Department must fight for veterans and not its own prerogatives.

Finally, let me take this moment to invite you to visit the Central Valley of California, home to thousands of veterans who face some of the most difficult challenges accessing their VA benefits. Your visit would be a signal to them that the Department is leaving no region of the country behind.

I would be happy to host you in my district for a town hall and to visit some of the local Department of Veterans Affairs facilities. Please contact Christopher Del Beccaro at (202)225-4540 on my staff or email him at Chris.DelBeccaro@mail.house.gov to coordinate such a trip.

Sincerely,



JEFF DENHAM
United States Representative