

**Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Field Hearing, Denver, Colorado**  
**April 24, 2015**  
**Senator Bennet**  
**Remarks For The Record**

- Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Blumenthal, thank you for your attention to this important project.
- And, thank you for traveling to Denver to see and hear first-hand what its completion means for our veterans in Colorado and across the Rocky Mountain region.
- Now that you've seen the structure and heard from our veterans here in Colorado, I'm sure you understand why our delegation has been so outraged and frustrated by this process, and also why we're adamant that this hospital is completed.
- There is no other option.
- Bottom line: those most hurt by the VA's negligence and mismanagement are our veterans and our taxpayers who have lost faith in the VA to complete this project.
- In the words of Steve Rylant and the UVC – "BTDT" – Build The Damn Thing.
- There is also much work to be done to ensure that the mistakes that were made on the Denver replacement facility never happen again – especially since lessons learned from previous VA construction projects were not applied to this project.
- That must change.
- We owe that to our veterans and to the taxpayers.
- The story of this Denver replacement facility should have been about the government improving the delivery of care to our veterans, instead of how feckless and shortsighted it can be.
- The delegation here today looks forward to working with our colleagues in Congress and our partners in the Rocky Mountain region to do just that.
- Chairman, we will work with you, our veterans and the other members of the Committee to find a solution that completes the hospital so veterans can access the care they have been promised.
- Thank you.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**City of Aurora**

**P. O. Box 440889**

**Aurora, CO 80044**



August 9, 2013

George J. Opfer, Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Attn: Hotline Division

Dear General Opfer:

If ever the term “res ipsa loquitur” applies, it is in the case of the mismanagement by those who were given the responsibility of designing and contracting for what was to be the largest treatment, diagnostic and research center in the United States just for veterans. It was budgeted originally at \$ 660 million. It was supposed to receive patients on or about March of 2014. Today the budget overage stands at \$400 million and the new ETA for this care center may not be until mid 2016.

I have enclosed an article. . . editorial comment by Dave Perry, the editor of the Aurora Sentinel, our largest newspaper serving Aurora and the surrounding municipalities. Yes, res ipsa loquitur, it speaks for itself. Those who were given the responsibility for delivering this veterans medical support facility have been arrogant and cavalier. They have participated in a systematic white wash of the facts. Their coverup behavior can only now be described as criminal and grossly negligent.

It is now time for the office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to come to Denver in order to conduct an in depth investigation to reveal who is responsible and bring them to justice. There are 35,000 veterans living in Aurora, 430,000 in the state. The present ancient VA hospital is a dungeon. We are seeing 77,000 patients.



When you begin your investigation it will quickly become apparent that there are those callous individuals who must answer for their misdoings. Please make this request a priority. Thank you.

V/R

Bernie Rogoff, Commissioner  
Veterans Affairs  
City of Aurora