

# United States Senate

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

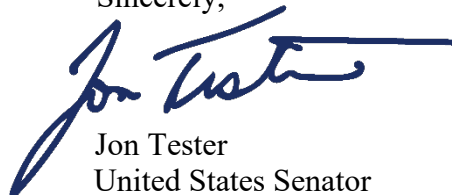
I am writing to request the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) act to award the new Lewistown Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) lease and continue aggressive oversight of the construction process so this facility can open to serve Fergus County-area veterans as soon as possible. I have long worked with Montana veterans, local communities, and VA to upgrade and modernize facilities across the Treasure State so veterans are able to receive timely, high-quality health care closer to where they live. This new Lewistown CBOC is critical because of its role in expanding access to VA health care for rural veterans in central Montana.

As you know, VA has been working for more than a year on plans for the new leased CBOC in Lewistown that will allow primary care and other critical health services to be delivered to veterans under one roof. As the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have worked to ensure VA has the authorities and resources for this and other projects in Montana and to help ensure they move through the planning, due diligence, award and construction process in a timely manner.

I ask the Department to stay laser-focused on completing the required contracting compliance reviews so this project can move forward to construction. And as we move to the next phase of this project, I will continue to hold VA accountable to aggressively manage the construction timeline so delivery of this new facility stays on schedule.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator