

**DOC HASTINGS**

4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS  
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**  
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

March 15, 2007

The Honorable James Nicholson  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

I am writing to you with strong concern regarding the status of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic for the Wenatchee area and request that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) take additional steps to move forward with the completion of this facility in a timely manner.

I am troubled that only one week after being personally informed by the Northwest Health Network that the Wenatchee clinic was on target to open this August and possibly sooner – the opening date for the clinic has now been pushed back to mid September. While one month may not seem like a major delay, this clinic is already drastically behind schedule. The VA originally promised Washington state veterans that this facility would open at the end of 2006 or the beginning of 2007 – unfortunately, for those veterans in my district who need care today, this has not happened. While I appreciate that the VA is honoring my request for monthly updates on this facility, I believe our veterans deserve better than delay after delay.

I strongly urge the VA to live up to its promise to complete this critical facility and provide increased access to care for the rural veterans of my district. I look forward to a prompt reply to these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings".

Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress