



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

February 12, 2024

Dear Legislators,

On January 11, 2024, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs presented an update to the House Interim Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans (HEMGGV) about efforts to establish the state's third Veterans' Home in Roseburg. ODVA Director Dr. Nakeia Daniels presented the sequence and timing of both state match financing and federal financing necessary to move this effort forward.

This project was authorized in statute by the legislature during the 2011 Regular Session, however, significant progress towards construction of the Veterans' Home has eluded the State to date. This needs to change, and I am writing you today to ensure you have my administration's attention and support to move the construction of Oregon's third Veteran's Home forward.

The next steps in the process include dedicating state match financing to the project – which is currently set at approximately \$35 million. I encourage you to act on this matter during the session. In March, ODVA is anticipating the submission of a siting report by our contractors, that assesses two sites for the construction of the new facility. It will be important for ODVA to work closely with Roseburg leadership, including veterans' leadership locally, to review this siting report before making final recommendations on a Veteran's Home location. The state match financing and siting review of the two construction models are required by the federal granting program before Oregon can be placed on the priority 1 federal funding prioritization list. Once on the priority 1 list, it will be important for Oregon to advocate for this project so it can move toward construction as soon as possible.

This project will significantly enhance the lives of many aging and vulnerable veterans across Oregon. The state currently only supports approximately 300 of the just over 900 USDVA authorized beds. I ask that you consider appropriating the required funds to meet the VA State Home Construction Grant Program requirements.

The world is undoubtedly a better place today thanks to the unwavering service and sacrifice of Oregon veterans, and I believe it is our moral duty to provide them with the highest quality care available without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Co-Chair Sanchez, Co-Chair Steiner