



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

June 29, 2007

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The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you for meeting with me in the office of Congressman Chet Edwards this morning.

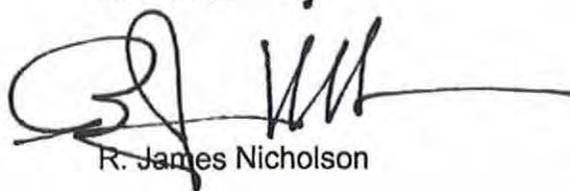
The issues regarding the appropriate use of the West Los Angeles VAMC campus are daunting.

As a former real estate developer, it pains me not to maximize the economic return on the property – money that ultimately would inure to the benefit of our veterans. This is doubly so because of the CARES process which was directed by Congress in response to a GAO finding that VA wastes some million dollars a day maintaining unneeded and underutilized physical plant.

Yet I do see the concerns your constituents have regarding anything that would increase the utilization of that property, thereby adding further strain to the community's infrastructure.

We will take no further action at this time with regard to the property, except that we will proceed with the development of the project for homeless veterans which you supported.

Sincerely,



R. James Nicholson