



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

April 9, 2014

City of DuPont

Congressman Denny Heck
425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

City of Lacey

City of Lakewood

City of Tacoma

Dear Congressman Heck:

City of Yelm

The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP), which represents the many communities around Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), would like to voice its **strong support** for the establishment of a permanent Veterans Center in the City of Lacey.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Nisqually Indian Tribe

Lacey has a sizeable and growing military/veterans population and is one of the primary off base communities where active duty Joint Base Lewis-McChord families reside. The South Sound Region and the 10th Congressional District in particular are home to a significant number of veterans and retirees, many of whom live in the more rural areas and small towns. Currently, these active duty members, retirees and veterans have to travel over 30 miles through a heavily congested Interstate 5 corridor encompassing two different transit agencies and routes to reach the nearest Veterans Center in Tacoma.

Pierce County

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

As the tempo of annual transitioning servicemembers increases through 2016 it is expected that 40% of the 8,000 active duty personnel at JBLM will choose to reside in our region. The SSMCP is committed to helping shape a new permanent Veterans Center in Lacey that meets the evolving needs of our active duty, veteran and retiree community members and their families.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Thurston County

This convenient location will provide more accessible service to that population. Your support for this request is greatly appreciated.

Thurston Regional Planning Council

Town of Steilacoom

Sincerely,

John J. Caulfield
City Manager, City of Lakewood
Chair, Executive Leadership Team

Kevin Phelps,
Deputy County Executive, Pierce County
Member, Executive Leadership Team

United Way of Pierce County

Washington State Department of Transportation