

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Mike Meyers, Mayor, City of Blaine
and all
Blaine City Council Members

FROM: Representative Doug Ericksen
(360) 786 7980
(Fax) 786-1276

DATE: June 8, 2006

(2) PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET

MESSAGE:

Following is a letter to R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, asking for consideration for the application requesting that a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic for veterans be established in Bellingham.

I plan to mail this letter by Monday, June 16. If you would like your name added to the letter, please notify me by email (Ericksen.doug@leg.wa.gov) or by phone (office - 360-786-7980 or home - 312-1355). I will then add your name electronically.

You can also view this letter on the right-hand corner of my website at: <http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/ericksen.htm>.

Thank you,

Doug

distributed by RL

June 16, 2006

The Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
50 Irving Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20422

Re: Bringing a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic for veterans to Bellingham, Washington

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

We, the undersigned elected officials and community leaders of Whatcom County, ask that you please give strong consideration to our application requesting that a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic for veterans be established in the city of Bellingham, Washington. Our application for this endeavor has been submitted at the federal level, yet it is not site-specific in terms of location for the proposed clinic.

Our current health care situation for local veterans is unfair and inconvenient, as many of them must travel hours for even the most basic of medical and health care needs. We have held community forums, relied on the leadership of veterans' groups, and engaged the public, and with each step we continue to hear from veterans that their health care burden is getting worse.

We believe Bellingham is the most centrally located and convenient option, as it offers the most advanced health care services, technologies and specializations in the area. Local veterans also believe Bellingham is the best location for a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic, and we strongly support their view.

We all know so well the great sacrifices our veterans have made to this country, and they deserve our immediate assistance in this time of need. Our local veterans, veterans' groups and communities are united behind this idea and all look forward to the opportunity to make it a success.

Thank you for your consideration – please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Doug Ericksen, 42nd District
(360) 786-7980

Cc: The Honorable Steve Buyer, US Representative – Chairman of House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
The Honorable Jonathan B. Perlin, Undersecretary for Health
Thomas G. Bowman, Chief of Staff – Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson
John Lee, Director – Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
Max Lewis, Network Director of Veterans' Affairs Northwest Health Network
DeAnn Deitrich, Deputy Director – Veterans Affairs, Puget Sound Office
George La Pold, American Legion Post No. 7
Michael Novotny, Team Leader – Bellingham Vet Center