

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management “Hearing on Implementing the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA): Maximizing Taxpayer Returns and Reducing Waste in Real Estate”

July 12, 2017

Questions for the Record from Congressman Jeff Denham

Question 1: On June 20, 2017, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a plan to dispose of or reuse all of its vacant buildings in 24 months. Has the VA submitted its real property data and recommendations to the General Services Administration and Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Federal Assets and Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA)?

VA Response: Yes, VA submitted its real property data as well as a list of 15 projects, comprised of 107 buildings, 2,335,894 square feet, and 551 acres of land to the General Services Administration (GSA) on April 12, 2017, in accordance with FASTA. We believe VA's submission to be the largest of any agency submission in terms of acreage and square footage by a wide margin.

Question 1a. If not, does VA plan to exercise the expedited disposal program in FASTA?

VA Response: VA submitted its recommendations to GSA on April 12, 2017, and the Office of Management and Budget, in accordance with FASTA.

Question 1b. If VA does not plan to utilize FASTA, why would the VA not take advantage of the law if the VA shares similar goals as FASTA?

VA Response: VA does plan to use FASTA – both for the initial submission as well as future iterations to be done annually. Some of the vacant buildings highlighted by Secretary Shulkin as being planned for reuse or disposal were not included on VA's initial FASTA submission for various reasons, including lack of severability from the surrounding campus, a desire to reuse internally, potential for Enhanced Use Lease, or necessitating complex actions prior to disposal that could not be completed in time for inclusion. VA continues to review its portfolio for disposal, consolidation, and reuse opportunities and will include assets not included on the first submission on subsequent submissions should they be appropriate.