

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

## **H.R. 753: The Department of Veterans Affairs COST SAVINGS (Creation of On-Site Treatment Systems Affording Veterans Improvements and Numerous General Safety) Enhancements Act**

### **Background:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) both consider on-site waste management to be a medical best practice as well as a cost-effective alternative to off-site waste management. However, only approximately 20% of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities have installed on-site regulated medical waste equipment. Veterans deserve a VA healthcare system that embraces best practices and is a good steward of both the environment and of taxpayer dollars.

*The VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act* would require VA to develop a uniform medical waste cost analysis model to determine the cost savings associated with the use of an on-site medical waste treatment system and identify facilities that would benefit from the use of an on-site medical waste treatment system over a five-year period. Any VA facility that would benefit from an on-site medical waste treatment system would be required to install such a system ensuring that the VA healthcare system is the model of world class care that veterans expect it to be.

### **The Message:**

- On-site waste management is a medical best practice, and the VA healthcare system should fully embrace it on behalf of our veterans.
- Taxpayer dollars allocated toward VA should be spent on veterans, not on inefficient administrative practices that are not up to today's medical standards.
- *The VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act* would require VA to identify facilities that would benefit from on-site medical waste treatment systems and put those systems in place to better serve veterans and taxpayers alike.