

**WALLY HERGER**

2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
242 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3076

DISTRICT OFFICES:

2635 FOREST AVENUE, SUITE 100  
CHICO, CA 95928  
(530) 893-8363

410 HEMSTED DRIVE, SUITE 115  
REDDING, CA 96002  
(530) 223-5898

[www.house.gov/herger](http://www.house.gov/herger)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0502**

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

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**RANKING MEMBER**  
HEALTH  
TRADE

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Eric Shinseki  
Secretary  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420-0001

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I am writing to express my strong concerns about the decision of the Oakland Regional office not to process Notice of Disagreements (NODs). Personnel from that office recently informed my staff that they are only processing new claims. Indefinitely postponing review of NODs—which already takes six to twelve months to complete—will cause significant hardship to Northern California veterans whose initial denial of benefits was erroneous and who should be receiving additional disability compensation. I believe this is unacceptable.

I am therefore requesting your prompt review of this matter and a thorough response addressing the concerns I have raised on behalf of impacted veterans. Thank you for your commitment to the care of our nation's veterans, and feel free to contact me should you need additional information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wally Herger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WALLY HERGER  
Member of Congress

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