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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tester, Manchin, Rounds, Colleagues Statement on Bipartisan Opposition to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission Process**

(U.S. Senate) – Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.), U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) today released the following joint statement announcing their collective opposition to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission process moving forward in the Senate, which signifies the end of the AIR Commission:

**“As Senators, we share a commitment to expanding and strengthening modern VA infrastructure in a way that upholds our obligations to America’s veterans. We believe the recommendations put forth to the AIR Commission are not reflective of that goal, and would put veterans in both rural and urban areas at a disadvantage, which is why we are announcing that this process does not have our support and will not move forward. The Commission is not necessary for our continued push to invest in VA health infrastructure, and together we remain dedicated to providing the Department with the resources and tools it needs to continue delivering quality care and earned services to veterans in 21st century facilities—now and into the future.”**

In 2018 Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed into law the [*VA MISSION Act*](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.congress.gov%2F115%2Fplaws%2Fpubl182%2FPLAW-115publ182.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdaniel.horowitz%40afge.org%7C3a0da84fa3ce4754c81c08da586f3701%7C527c0fbbcd144643a3b4d84bb5954133%7C1%7C1%7C637919531954099849%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oV7IchnysWpDaU3mohbeZtPwllGUu9FwiFCsLvJwq40%3D&reserved=0). Among its many provisions, the law required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to research, develop and publish a list of recommendations intended to modernize VA medical facilities and health care delivery—including through facility expansions, relocations, closures or changes in services. The law further directed those recommendations to be reviewed by a presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commission, which would then report its views of the recommendations to the President who could end the process or present recommendations to Congress for a vote. Without the Senate’s approval of the nominees, no Commission will be established and the process as outlined by the *VA MISSION Act* will not move forward.

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