

VA: RETURN ON SOLAR INVESTMENT IN JUST 38.59 YEARS!

QUICK STATS

- X **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- X **TEAM:** Department of Veterans Affairs
- O **FUMBLE:** \$8 million VA solar boondoggle
- O **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** For spending on infrastructure projects, the return on investment should be less than ten years

The VA facility in Little Rock, AR, moved never-used solar panels to new heights—on top of a parking structure. In April 2015 only two years after completion and at a cost of \$8 million¹⁴⁹ from a federal government grant, the hospital tore down its never-used solar panels. The 1,400 inactive solar panels were taken down to make room for a new parking garage that was approved after the solar panels were installed.¹⁵⁰

If that is not bad enough, in response to this issue, the VA assured Congress taxpayers will save \$207,266 annually once the never-used panels in Little Rock are activated, which means that in about 38 ½ years, American taxpayers

will start to get a return on their investment.¹⁵¹ No American family would ever buy solar panels for their own home if the return on investment was greater than a mortgage, so why should VA?

RECOVERY

It is admirable for agencies to look for ways to save money in the long run, a responsible budget practice that families do on a daily basis. But no family would invest in a cost-saving measure that kicks in after a generation. Congress should ensure that all federal spending for buildings and facilities is cost effective and immediately beneficial.

For more information, please visit:

[VA Letters to Congressman French Hill](#)

[Hot Springs Daily: Little Rock VA Throws Away \\$8,000,000 But Doesn't Pay Arkansas Hospitals For Care](#)