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**BROTHERS**  
St. Alexius Medical Center

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APR 01 2011

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

March 23, 2011

Mr. Dale Galassie  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 010-089

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to express my opposition to Mercy Hospital's proposed new hospital in Crystal Lake.

There are currently six regional medical centers – including St. Alexius – within about a half-hour of the proposed Mercy site in southern McHenry County. Each of those hospitals has plenty of open beds to care for more patients. Given that existing hospital capacity can easily keep up with any potential growth in the area, it makes no sense to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a brand new limited care facility. It will duplicate services and increase health care costs for everyone.

Many of our existing hospitals have already invested in improvements to increase and expand care. Advocate Good Shepherd and Provena St. Joseph have new or newly upgraded facilities that are well-positioned to serve the Crystal Lake area. And, as you may be aware, Alexian Brothers is ready to break ground on a new children's hospital on the campus of St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates. Alexian Brothers will be able to offer coordinated care among pediatric subspecialists as well as care for the tiniest infants and their mothers. This facility, located near Interstate 90 and Barrington Road, was approved by the state because it will serve a large geographic region, including southeastern McHenry County.

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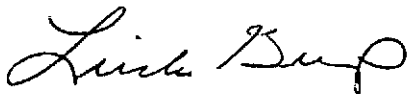
Project 10-089

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The six-story patient tower is scheduled for completion in 2013. At 209,000 square feet, the tower will feature 96 patient beds, a pharmacy, MRI facilities and expanded pediatric facilities. It will also include an extension of same-day surgery and emergency department observation areas. At a cost of \$117 million dollars, this expansion represents a significant investment that St. Alexius is making in our hospital and our community. A duplicative new hospital would undermine the long-term plans and investments of our regional medical facilities. It would, ultimately, adversely affect the level of health care available to the residents of our communities.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Gump".

Linda Gump  
Vice President, Administration  
St. Alexius Medical Center