

December 10, 2015

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

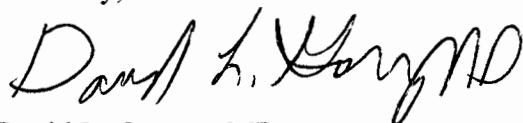
Re: Project 15-058 OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center Freestanding Emergency Center, Streator

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the Regional CEO for OSF HealthCare, and write to urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to expedite consideration of OSF's application to establish a freestanding emergency center in Streator. The residents of Streator are understandably concerned about the closing of their hospital on January 4, 2016; however, they have voiced an even greater concern about the loss of emergency services to the community. OSF sought and received legislative approval to establish a freestanding emergency center in Streator. The St. Mary Hospital Emergency Department has seen approximately 11,000 visits per year. OSF is prepared to implement the freestanding emergency center as soon as we have received approval. We have board certified emergency physicians and emergency department staff hired to begin January 4.

As a physician, I am concerned if there is a gap in emergency services available to the Streator community. This gap in services will increase the travel time to needed emergency services and potentially put patients at risk. Thus, I respectfully ask for approval of our application to establish a freestanding emergency center and ask that it be expedited as much as possible.

Sincerely,



David L. Gorenz, MD
Regional CEO, I-80 Region

cc: Mike Constantino