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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

LOCAL 1899

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Foxpoint Dialysis, Project 16-037 February 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am the President of United Steelworkers Local 1899 in Granite City, Illinois. On behalf of the membership of Local 1899, this letter is written in support of the Foxpoint Dialysis facility proposal. Our local is proud to represent over 100 years of unbroken unionism at Granite City Steel. Our membership in the main steel plant numbers approximately 1400 and includes production, maintenance, and office and technical workers, as well as fire and security members.

Granite City has fallen into hard times in recent years with the idling of the steel mill. U.S. Steel, along with other companies that support the steel mill here, has been the economic driver in the area for many years, actually since the founding of the town. Unfortunately, the operations of the steel plant have been idled for most of the last two years. With an excess of steel production globally and illegal dumping of steel by foreign companies, the steel industry has been faltering in the U.S. We are a community in need of resources.

As for kidney disease, I understand that many people are far along in the progression of the disease before they even know they have it and when it is too late to stop the complete loss of kidney function. Based on that, rates of kidney disease are rising in our community. Since treatments take a good part of the day three days a week, it is important that these services are available for our community within Granite City proper. It would be too time consuming and expensive for people out of work or who otherwise don't have a steady income to expect kidney patients should leave their community for this service. This is especially true when a private company is willing to build a new location near us, right here in Granite City.

For these reasons, Local 1899 of United Steelworkers Union supports DaVita's efforts to expand access to dialysis services in Granite City. We urge you to approve their proposal.

Sincerely,

Dan Simmons

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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