



August 24, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-17 – Metro East Endoscopy Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write to help preserve and protect a critically important local employer, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese (SJB), and to support all our area employers whose continued existence in significant part depends upon this rural hospital and the services it provides. It is no exaggeration to say that SJB is an essential part of our regional infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a serious challenge to SJB, and this CON application significantly compounds those challenges.

For purposes of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, I understand that Project #20-17 constitutes an unnecessary duplication of existing and underutilized hospital services, negatively impacts a federally-designated Critical Access Hospital, and represents a threat to safety net services. Beyond those legal implications, this CON application is a serious threat to the economic health of our region. Particularly while our state and nation struggle to economically revive during this pandemic, Project #20-17 is ill-timed and, I earnestly suggest, should be denied.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly Schadegg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shelly Schadegg
President, Breese Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 132
Breese, Illinois 62230

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board

P.O. Box 132, Breese, IL 62230