



700 Fifth Street
Highland, IL 62249

Telephone (618) 654-2103
Facsimile (618) 654-8016

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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

August 25, 2020

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

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-017 – Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

In addition to being a significant employer in the Highland area, I am an active volunteer at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland (SJH). I serve on the SJH Board of Directors, SJH Foundation Leadership Council, and SJH Quality Care Committee as a community member.

Certainly, this CON application merits denial as an unnecessary duplication of services and threat to safety net services. Its timing is especially devastating during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The backstory is even more troubling. A significant history of collaboration between SJH and the surgery center is being callously discarded. In 2015, at the request of this CON applicant, SJH invested \$1 million on a Mako surgical robot, and has since spent \$120,000 annually for preventative maintenance on the equipment. In 2019, SJH invested another \$290,000 in the "Total Knee Application" software upgrade for the Mako. These were significant investments for our small 25-bed Critical Access Hospital. The relationship has been good for the surgery center and the community – and the filing of this CON application came as a complete surprise. It is beyond disappointing that this CON applicant would attempt to walk away from this generous collaboration and bring damage SJH and safety net services in the process. What has been a good partnership and collaboration should, in the best interest of health care for our area, continue. Please deny Project #20-017.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Sullivan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Sullivan
President/CEO
Highland Machine Co.
700 5th Street
Highland, IL 62249

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
mike.constantino@illinois.gov