



City of Highland
Fire & EMS Department

J. Brian Wilson, Emergency Services Chief

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

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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I wish to share my strong opposition to this CON application. If granted, Project #20-017 would have serious adverse consequences for our community. Certainly from a community wellbeing and rural health care perspective, this unnecessary duplication of services is not justified.

In my role with the fire department and given my EMS training, I personally see the critical importance of having a local hospital with a 24/7/365 emergency department. Quite literally, it can make a life or death difference. The redirection of 200 outpatient orthopedic surgeries per year from our Critical Access Hospital will unavoidably result in service cuts, and possibly impact the emergency department.

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland (SJH) has been part of our community since January 1878. A four-story addition was made in 1950, and the new hospital opened to the public in 2013. In that 142-year history, no challenge has been greater than the current COVID-19 pandemic. To further financially challenge SJH at this precarious time would be wrong on many levels.

Very truly yours,

Brian Wilson
Chief, Highland Fire Department
1115 Broadway
Highland, IL 62249

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
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