



August 31, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board members,

I am writing in support of the newly proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic (Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030).

I am supporting this project because Sarah Bush Lincoln continues to invest in Effingham, my hometown. I am Amy Dammerman, the director of Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic. I manage the day-to-day operations of the busy clinic, solve issues, hire staff and address the needs of the medical team. Before I talk about why this is a critical project for Effingham, I want to talk about the investment Sarah Bush Lincoln has made in Effingham. To date, my organization has invested nearly \$13 million in new buildings and land acquisitions in the last 12 years. I am not even tallying the cost of equipment in various buildings.

This Effingham medical office building is an important replacement project. The roof leaks, the HVAC system is inefficient, it floods during heavy rains, there are issues with the automatic doors, the MRI is outside the building, it is poorly designed and floors are uneven where additions to the building were added. Despite all these failings, the underlying issue is space. We have 14 medical staff members providing care in crowded and cramped exam rooms. It is not ideal and certainly not comfortable for patients and employees. I participated in the new design and I can guarantee that there is no shell space for later developments. There will be no surgeries performed in this building. It is not even a part of the incredibly detailed application. The noted procedure rooms are for treatments like joint injections and sutures. Every square inch of this 65,400 square foot building is designated for use.

The medical and clinic staff is beloved by their patients. The community has embraced Sarah Bush Lincoln and this \$35 million investment in Effingham. It allows us to consolidate several of our existing busy Effingham practices. We employ more than 100 local and area residents in this building, and 345 Effingham County residents throughout our Health System. These well-paying jobs impact the community and help keep the economy moving.

Some people have claimed we are offering redundant services. That is not true. In fact, throughout the pandemic, the SBL Walk-In Clinic remained opened and provided care for many people who needed care quickly. HSHS St. Anthony's Convenient Care shuttered during the pandemic and reopened this past weekend. We were glad to be available to serve the community. We continue to provide COVID-19 specimen collection and testing to Effingham.

Bonutti Clinic

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In HSHS St. Anthony's President & CEO Theresa Rutherford's radio interview recently, she talked about how HSHS had to "right size" its organization and asked local businesses to hire those they let go. Sarah Bush Lincoln has offered positions to several of these people with valuable healthcare knowledge and experience.

If this CON is approved, we start building right away and infuse money into the economy. If this is not approved, we continue to provide the same world-class care we always have. In this entrepreneurial community, I cannot believe they want the latter.

Please accept this letter as an indication of my full support of Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. I look forward to an approved Certificate of Need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Dammerman". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Amy Dammerman

Director, Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic