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August 31, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

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

I am Kim Uphoff, Vice President of Operations at Sarah Bush Lincoln and I am well versed in the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act and the Certificate of Need (CON) program. In my 22 years of healthcare experience in the State of Illinois, I have attended many IHFSRB meetings and understand the importance of justifying the need for a project and satisfying criteria as established in the Board Administrative Rules.

This project is rather simple and straight forward. I was surprised that a hospital system, the size of HSHS, would object to an independent community hospital replacing its medical office building. This project does not negatively impact HSHS St. Anthony's Hospital nor does it shift patient revenue. Let me be clear, we already provide primary care office visits, specialty care office visits, physical and occupational therapy, laboratory services, MRI, ultrasound, and x-ray services in Effingham. Our plan is to replace our Medical Office Building with our **existing** services and add CT to round out our imaging services. It really is that simple.

We have clearly demonstrated the need to replace our outdated medical office building that is more than 50 years old and was originally built as a skating rink. The roof leaks, the design is inefficient, and we do not have ample space to care for our patients. That is well documented in our application and we have accounted for every square foot that is needed in this project.

Recently, the CEO of St. Anthony's Hospital began suggesting to others that this clinic might be used as a surgery center or a micro-hospital. I'm shocked that a hospital administrator would knowingly introduce such false information in an attempt to block this project. Anyone in healthcare knows there are stringent standards in the Illinois Administrative Code to obtain Hospital Occupancy or Ambulatory Care Occupancy permits. This project is neither. This project replaces a Medical Office Building – nothing else. It is irresponsible to suggest otherwise.

I have attended all Effingham planning commission meetings, zoning meetings, and city council meetings related to this project. We have been warmly welcomed at every encounter and not a single person expressed concern or opposition to this project during these meetings. I know how much this project means to the Effingham community and its residents. Many have told me

personally how excited they are to see the building replaced and how grateful they are that SBL continues to provide quality care to patients in this community, like it has for decades.

I strongly encourage you to approve project # 20-030 for the residents of Effingham.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim Uphoff". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kim Uphoff  
Vice President Operations, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center