Re: KSB/OSF Affiliation

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Executive Director of Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Main Street, I am writing this letter in strong support of the affiliation of KSB Hospital with OSF HealthCare.

KSB has been a long-term partner of DCCMS, consistently collaborating on community initiatives, working with local organizations, and providing high-quality healthcare to our residents. As the largest employer in our region, the job growth resulting from this affiliation will have a significant impact on our local economy. Moreover, the investment in facilities and technology improvements will enhance talent recruitment efforts and benefit our community as a whole.

From the perspective of a community partner and an advocate for the City of Dixon, this affiliation is critical. Dixon's average income is below both the state average and national average. Our residents rely on local medicine. To couple with the high quality care that KSB has always provided, the OSF Centers of Excellence will only improve upon the accessibility and quality of healthcare available to our region. This will impact our business community as reliable, local healthcare leads to decreased absenteeism and a stronger economy.

As someone who has just moved into Dixon and has in the past had to seek healthcare in a more urban setting because rural medicine did not meet my needs, this affiliation has the potential to change healthcare for myself and my family. The enhancement of services provided with this affiliation has the potential to make healthcare locally accessible as a primary care provider and specialized care for myself as well as many other families.

I strongly support this affiliation. KSB has always had a holistic community approach to healthcare and I look forward to a strengthened presence with the OSF affiliation. Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wike Executive Director 815-284-3361

Amanda.wike@dixonnow.com