

August 13, 2024

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761



Dear Members of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of the affiliation of KSB Hospital with OSF HealthCare as a positive and exciting step in promoting healthcare accessibility in our community.

As a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 2013 to 2023, I represented a district that included KSB Hospital. I was the House Republican Caucus leader on budget and healthcare policy. In those roles, I regularly saw the challenges faced by small and rural hospitals across our state. I also worked to increase funding for hospitals through the Hospital Assessment Program redesign, and to support transformation efforts that would stabilize and protect access to healthcare through funds like the Hospital Transformation Program. I see this affiliation of KSB Hospital and OSF HealthCare as a necessary and positive step to meet the challenges of the modern healthcare landscape, contain costs, and protect access to care in Dixon and the surrounding area.

Now with the Lee County Industrial Development Association, I continue to see the importance of KSB Hospital as a major employer and driver of the local economy. I also see how important access to healthcare can be in attracting and retaining a high quality workforce and new employers. This affiliation will protect and provide growth opportunities for our local healthcare workforce, and will ensure that we can continue to provide high quality healthcare to local workers and residents.

On a personal level, I was born at KSB Hospital and my two children were also born at KSB Hospital. Both my wife and I have worked at KSB Hospital. A local hospital is important to bring new lives into the world and to save lives in the moments of greatest need—but it's also an important part of everyday life and wellbeing here in Dixon. I'm pleased to write this letter in support of the affiliation of KSB Hospital and OSF HealthCare, and I'm excited to see the next chapter of healthcare here in my hometown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Demmer
President, Lee County Industrial Development Association