



August 13, 2024

HealthCare Facilities Planning Board

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed affiliation between KSB Hospital and OSF HealthCare. As a lifelong resident of Lee County, Illinois, and with 44 years of experience at The First National Bank in Amboy, where I currently serve as President, CEO and Board Chair, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role that healthcare plays in our communities. Over the past sixteen years, I have also had the honor of serving on the board of KSB Hospital, and I am deeply invested in the success of this affiliation.

KSB opened its doors in 1897 when Judge Solomon Bethea gave his entire estate to establish a hospital in honor of his late wife, Katherine. OSF HealthCare was founded in 1877, by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Peoria. Both systems have a long history of serving the health and wellness of their communities. I believe that KSB and OSF HealthCare share missions and values that align closely with the needs of our region and this partnership will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality healthcare services. This affiliation will not only uphold, but also enhance KSB Hospital's proud legacy by introducing new investments, advanced technology, and expanded services. These improvements are essential for elevating the level of care available to our communities.

As a Board Member for KSB Hospital, we put our patients at the forefront of every decision, and we never forget they are the heart of everything we do. We knew it was our responsibility to plan for the future and never took that responsibility lightly. Our board had the foresight to realize that simply having a high-quality healthcare system would not be sufficient, that effective population health management demands so much more, and being a standalone hospital today presents many challenges, with escalating costs and changes to health care financing systems. One of the most important aspects of this affiliation is that it will allow us to keep care locally. Patients will not be forced to travel far for services, which is especially important in emergency situations where every minute counts. This partnership will also provide access to OSF's Centers of Excellence, bringing specialized care to our communities.

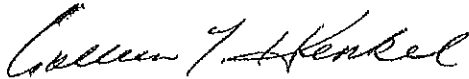
Member FDIC

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I personally have been a patient of KSB Hospital since birth, and my family and I have relied on their care throughout our lives. From the birth of our three children to various surgeries, and even my mother's end of life care, it is a tremendous blessing to have access to quality healthcare. I want to ensure that this level of care remains available for generations to come.

I am confident in the future success of this partnership, and I am eager to see the benefits it will bring to Lee and Ogle counties and beyond. I have always been so proud to be a part of KSB, but never prouder than this moment, as we transform healthcare for our future. Please consider this letter as a testament to my unwavering support for the affiliation. I am available for any further discussions if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colleen T. Henkel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Colleen" and last name "Henkel" clearly distinguishable.

Colleen T Henkel
President, CEO, Board Chair
The First National Bank in Amboy
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