

June 13, 2024

Mail to: By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

I am writing to you in opposition of OSF's plans to discontinue services at St. Elizabeth Medical Center ("SEMC") in Ottawa, and in opposition of OSF's plans to demolish the hospital and build a newer, smaller facility that greatly reduces access to inpatient hospital services.

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Please vote against OSF's projects to demolish our hospital in Ottawa and replace it with a smaller facility that eliminates our ICU and OB units, and severely reduces our medical surgical unit to one of the smallest in the state. OSF's plans do not align with the growth in our area – both traditional residential and also through tourism as Heritage Harbor looks to build 300 vacation homes. OSF's plans also do not align with the promises they made to our community 12 short years ago – and the promises stated in their exemption application to the IHFSRB in 2012.

It is our hope that OSF takes the time to make a better plan for our hospital, one that is right-sized for our community's needs and honors the spirit of the partnership we entered into with their system and our local hospital.

Thank you,

Name (Signature): Tom Contreras

Name (Printed): Tom Contreras

Address: 308 Illinois St

City/State/Zip: Marseilles, IL 62441

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Amanda Moser

Name (Printed): AMANDA MOSER

Address: 2012 EASTLAKE DRIVE

City/State/Zip: OTTAWA, IL 61350

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Name (Signature):

Name (Printed):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Rebecca E. Contreras
Rebecca E. Contreras
308 Illinois St.
Marseilles, IL 61341

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Name (Signature):



Name (Printed): DYLAN SZCZYGIEL

Address: 2012 EASTLAKE DRIVE

City/State/Zip: OTTAWA IL 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Donna L. Simmons

Name (Printed):

Donna L. Simmons

Address: 108 17th

City/State/Zip: Ottawa, IL 61350

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JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Date: July 15th, 2024

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525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Deann Whiteaker
Name (Printed): Deann Whiteaker
Address: 209 Adams St.
City/State/Zip: OTTAWA IL 61350

Date: July 1, 2024

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Larry Whiteaker

Name (Printed): LARRY WHITEAKER

Address: 807 Adams St.

City/State/Zip: OTTAWA, IL 61350

Date: July 1, 2024

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): 

Name (Printed): Angelena Stecker

Address: 2704 Mary Rd 3A

City/State/Zip: Ottawa IL 61350

Date: July 1, 2024

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): EBurns, PhD

Name (Printed): Erica Burns, PhD

Address: 2075 W. Bill Place

City/State/Zip: Denver, CO 80223 (Formerly of Ottawa, IL)

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Date: June 15, 2024

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center-Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); & Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center-Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

My name is Jeanne Armstrong and I have been a resident of Ottawa, IL for over 50 years. I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns. I am writing to you in opposition to OSF's plan for our hospital.

My father is 96 years old, and we recently had a situation that I believe will happen more often if what OSF wants to do happens. My husband and I were vacationing out of state when my dad was taken by ambulance to St. Elizabeth with a problem with a hernia. We received a Facetime call informing us that there were no beds available and that they were going to have to transfer him to Champagne, IL and he would have surgery there. I immediately requested they call his doctor who had been treating him and they told me he was not on call so they couldn't do that. I knew that his surgeon had rights at both St. Elizabeth and Morris Hospital, so I requested that he be taken there. They were not willing to do that, and my dad traveled two hours in an ambulance in pain. We of course rushed home and proceeded to spend two days traveling back and forth to be there for him. I spoke with his surgeon, and he told me that he most definitely could have done that surgery in Morris and to call him directly next time. I was so disappointed that my dad had to have surgery without me there and with someone he had never met.

Since that day, I have listened to countless stories very similar to this one. When I heard what OSF's plan was for our community, I immediately thought of how this will impact these kinds of situations, putting more strain on families and our first responders. I keep hearing that we don't need all the beds that we currently have. Then why are people being transferred due to lack of beds?

It is my hope that OSF will go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that is sufficient for our community and the surrounding communities.

Thank you,

Jeanne Armstrong

June 13, 2024

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Name (Signature): Jill Jennings
Name (Printed): Jill Jennings
Address: 384 Midwestern Dr.
City/State/Zip: Ottawa, IL 61350
07/11/24

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Name (Signature):

Joni L Jacobs

Name (Printed):

Joni L JACOBS

Address:

2326 N. 30th Rd

City/State/Zip:

Mrsailles IL 61341

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Name (Signature):

Name (Printed):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

07/16/24

Randall Jacobs

Randall JACOBS

2326 N. 30th Rd

MANSEILLES, IL 61341

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It is our hope that OSF takes the time to make a better plan for our hospital, one that is right-sized for our community's needs and honors the spirit of the partnership we entered into with their system and our local hospital.

Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Mike Anderson

Name (Printed):

Mike Anderson

Address:

918 Chambers

City/State/Zip:

OTTAWA IL 61350

07106124

June 13, 2024

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

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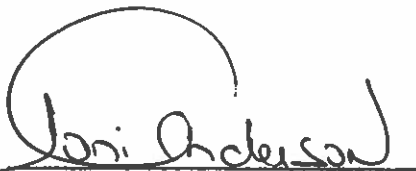
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

Toni Anderson

Address:

918 Chambers St.

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa IL 61350

07/06/24

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 13, 2024

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Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
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Springfield, IL 62761

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed): CATHY JO POLGNER

Address: 488 ROUTH ST

City/State/Zip: MARSEILLES, IL

07/05/24

61341

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 13, 2024

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Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Rebecca Tabor

Name (Printed):

Rebecca Tabor

Address:

916 Clark St

City/State/Zip:

Marseilles, IL 61341

07105124

June 13, 2024

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mail to By July 19
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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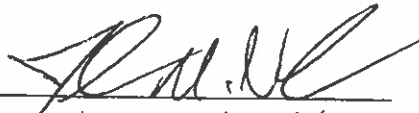
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

John M. Nelson

Address:

2053 Northlake Dr.

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa IL 61350

June 13, 2024

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mail to By July 19
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Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Andrew J. Nelson
Name (Printed): Andrew John Nelson
Address: 2701 Mara Dr.
City/State/Zip: Ottawa, IL 61350

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 13, 2024

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

Thomas R. Miller

Address:

915 Mulberry St.

City/State/Zip:

OTTAWA IL 61350

Date: July 15 2024

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Robert J. Miller

Name (Printed): Robert J. Miller

Address: 2266 N 24th Rd Marseilles

City/State/Zip: Marseilles, IL 61341

We intend to switch to Morris.

Date: July 15, 2024

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Mary Miller

Name (Printed):

Mary Miller

Address:

2266 N 24th Rd

City/State/Zip:

Marionville IL 61941

Date: July 12 2024

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Mary Hottel

Name (Printed): MARY J. HOTTEL

Address: 516 N 25 RD

City/State/Zip: MARSEILLE IL 61341

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 13, 2024

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

J. Miller

Name (Printed):

Lacy Miller

Address:

915 Mulberry St

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa IL, 61350

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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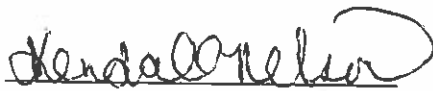
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

Kendall Nelson

Address:

2701 Mara Dr.

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa, IL 61350

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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JUL 17 2024

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): C. Smith

Name (Printed): Craig Smith

Address: 432 W Johnson St

City/State/Zip: Utica, IL 61373

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

I am writing to you in opposition of OSF's plans to discontinue services at St. Elizabeth Medical Center ("SEMC") in Ottawa, and in opposition of OSF's plans to demolish the hospital and build a newer, smaller facility that greatly reduces access to inpatient hospital services.

In March 2024, OSF announced plans to build a new hospital in Ottawa and demolish the one built in the 70s. The new hospital would keep 26 mental health beds; but the 5-bed ICU and 14-bed OB units would be eliminated; and only 12 med/surg beds would remain (a 78% reduction from the 54 it has today). In stark contrast, OSF shared plans to re-open Peru's once shuttered hospital as the system's new inpatient hub on I-80, and increase the number of beds. **Even with OSF re-opening the Peru hospital with an increase in beds, the severe reduction planned for SEMC-Ottawa still leaves the C-02 region short 24 med/surg beds and 2 OB beds, and will place all ICU beds West of I-39 - leaving a gaping hole in access in LaSalle County.**

Please vote against OSF's projects to demolish our hospital in Ottawa and replace it with a smaller facility that eliminates our ICU and OB units, and severely reduces our medical surgical unit to one of the smallest in the state. OSF's plans do not align with the growth in our area – both traditional residential and also through tourism as Heritage Harbor looks to build 300 vacation homes. OSF's plans also do not align with the promises they made to our community 12 short years ago – and the promises stated in their exemption application to the IHFSRB in 2012.

It is our hope that OSF takes the time to make a better plan for our hospital, one that is right-sized for our community's needs and honors the spirit of the partnership we entered into with their system and our local hospital.

Thank you,

Name (Signature): Tammy Bienemann
Name (Printed): Tammy Bienemann
Address: 432 W Johnson St
City/State/Zip: Utica, IL 61373

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 13, 2024

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &

Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Lindsey Bienemann

Name (Printed):

Lindsey Bienemann

Address:

2201 Libby St.

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa, IL, 61350

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Roxanne Polach
Name (Printed): Roxanne Polach
Address: 305 Midwestern Dr
City/State/Zip: Ottawa, IL 61350



RECEIVED

JUL 17 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

July 12, 2024

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board(IHFSRB)
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL. 62761

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center-Replacement hospital(CON
Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center-Discontinuation of facility (CON
Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to OSF's plans to tear down the current hospital and build the new OSF proposed hospital in Ottawa.

OSF had zero discussions with any stakeholders regarding this proposal to eliminate and severely cut essential medical services that our community has depended upon since the 1800's. OSF officials gave our elected City Officials two hours notice before their public announcement about building this new hospital. It sounded great initially until you peeled back the layers to see the elimination of the Obstetrics & ICU areas not to mention the drastic reduction in Medical/Surgical beds for inpatient care and the reduction in Operating Rooms as well.

If approved this change in the healthcare footprint would make the Ottawa hospital one of the smallest in the State of Illinois. The community of Ottawa is a strong, vibrant, growing community. By the last US Census, Ottawa was the only community in Lasalle County to actually grow in population. OSF St Elizabeth has been a profitable hospital the past few years for the OSF organization which is a nonprofit entity.

If approved this would negatively impact our vital city services within our fire and police departments. Both of our Fire & Police Chiefs have spoken out in great detail about their opposition to this plan because of the impact that this proposal will have on their departments and the safety of the residents of our City. This change will require even more of our city resources for the fire and police departments compared to our modest coverage currently. The city rescue squads are expecting to get sent to Peru instead of Ottawa hospital when they are put on bypass occasionally due to capacity from St Elizabeth in Ottawa when transporting someone in the Ottawa community further straining our already limited resources And from the Mental Health Hub proposal that OSF has presented our police chief has said that will utilize even more resources with that plan than what is utilized today in which OSF pays absolutely nothing to our City for this service.

According to City of Ottawa officials, the last time OSF officials discussed their plan with them was a year or two ago when at that time they planned on Ottawa being the Hub with Peru being smaller and the birthing center also being located at St Elizabeth in Ottawa. OSF's own audit for the fiscal year ending in 2023 referenced OSF buying the Peru hospital in November, 2023 and then turning that hospital into a second campus location for St Elizabeth.

The City of Ottawa, City of Streator, LaSalle County Board, Town of Marseilles, Village of Naplate as well as the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce has all passed resolutions in opposition to OSF's plans for St Elizabeth in Ottawa. Most of these votes have been unanimous.

According to one of OSF's own physicians who spoke at a LaSalle County Board meeting he said that Ottawa is an aging population whose needs are higher and the payor mix is not inviting to recruit physicians. 14% of patients are uninsured and 24% are underinsured being paid by Medicaid & Medicare according to Dr Lopez. This is the very reason why OSF's proposal will have a disproportionate impact on the lower income individuals/families in the Ottawa area. Some of those individuals won't have the option to get off work to travel out of town nor have the transportation means to do that to get their healthcare needs met. OSF's plan will have a devastating impact on the Ottawa area community limiting and restricting health care access to the western side of LaSalle County. Recruiting physician's in the LaSalle/Peru area compared to the Ottawa area cannot be much of a difference. Is Ottawa's Payor mix at St Elizabeth Hospital the reason for these eliminations and reduction of services?

Please vote no and oppose these changes that OSF has presented to eliminate vital services and drastically reduce other essential healthcare needs that this growing community of Ottawa depends upon. Please encourage OSF officials to work with the City of Ottawa and other area governmental entities to work on a plan where key stakeholders have essential input into this plan. Again, absolutely no local input was sought from our local community or even from representatives of the OSF local Advisory Board as well which also consists of Ottawa community members.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ron Henson
833 Kimberly Lane
Ottawa, IL. 61350