

From: [Devon Henson](#)
To: [Roate, George](#)
Subject: [External] Opposition Letter to CON 24-011 & CON 24-013
Date: Friday, July 12, 2024 9:53:20 AM

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

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.

I'll also note that we are a growing community. I just noticed yesterday a store leaving downtown LaSalle and coming to downtown Ottawa. With our retail and restaurant growth we are drawing to our great town. We need a hospital that will support that growth.

Thank you,
Devon Henson
Ottawa, IL

Sent from my iPhone