

**From:** [Leslie J Pool](#)  
**To:** [Roate, George](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Opposition Letter to CON 24-011 & CON 24-013  
**Date:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 1:28:52 PM

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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.

I simply cannot understand how eliminating ICU and OB units and reducing med/surg beds to 12 in a city the size of Ottawa with many surrounding cities that also depend on those services to be acting with "greatest care and love" and leaving those in need of urgent care and life saving services in a transport queue.

The citizens of Ottawa took great pride in Ryburn Hospital and later in the building of Community Hospital of Ottawa and their creation was the result of years of planning and financial and other contributions from the local community. When Community Hospital was given to OSF 12 years ago, it appears the promises from OSF were nothing more than a bait and switch scam.

Availability of healthcare is a major consideration for economic development, tourism and recreation. Also, Ottawa City services do not have the resources needed to meet the demands of mental health patients and those in need of transportation to other facilities.

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.

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,

Leslie J. Pool

Sent from my iPad