

October 23, 2025

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

From: Dr. William Maloney 

Emergency Department Medical Director

OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Peru

As the physician leader over our Emergency Department in Peru, over the last few years I have witnessed OSF making significant improvements in healthcare for our region. The Peru hospital was reopened and significantly renovated after a previous health system abandoned the community. There are plans for a brand-new hospital in Ottawa. New primary care providers and specialists have been recruited and are serving the communities. And numerous new jobs have been created.

These developments are in stark contrast to the trends the US is seeing in other rural areas of the country. In many places services are being withdrawn, physicians are leaving, jobs are lost, and hospitals are closing.

OSF sees the big picture when it comes to rural healthcare. Unlike other Illinois regions, OSF has invested in the communities that it serves. OSF understands that to serve the greatest number of people there must be thoughtful consideration about where services should be located. It is of course just not practical to have a duplication of services within a short drive.

The plan that OSF has proposed by far makes the most sense to me. The end result will enable a greater number of regional residents than ever before to access a higher level of care closer to home.

I feel fortunate to be able to help serve OSF's mission to better the lives of the residents of the region. I hope the area's residents realize how fortunate they are to have OSF in their communities as well.

