



March 3, 2026

Karen Tracy

Chief Executive Officer

Rochelle Community Hospital

900 North Second Street

Rochelle, IL 61068

Dear Ms. Tracy,

On behalf of Ridge Ambulance Service, I am pleased to formally express our strong support for the capital improvement project at Rochelle Community Hospital. This initiative to enhance and modernize the Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services represents a vital investment in strengthening regional access to high-quality healthcare and ensuring the long-term vitality of this essential community institution.

Rochelle Community Hospital remains a cornerstone of healthcare for Rochelle and surrounding rural areas. As patient volumes grow and care demands evolve, updating clinical spaces and diagnostic capabilities is essential to deliver safe, efficient, and patient-centered services.

The proposed enhancements will expand timely access to urgent evaluation and rapid diagnostics—critical for the patients we serve daily through emergency transports. These upgrades are anticipated to reduce wait times, boost capacity, and decrease the need for out-of-community transfers, thereby improving care continuity and convenience.

Modernized facilities and technology will empower healthcare teams to provide faster assessments, timely testing, and earlier interventions, all of which contribute to better patient outcomes. Optimized layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will also improve throughput, ease operational bottlenecks, and make more effective use of staff resources—benefits that directly support a positive patient experience amid rising demand.



For rural communities like ours, a strong local hospital is fundamental to health, economic stability, and resilience. This project is more than a facility upgrade; it is a lasting commitment to keeping Rochelle Community Hospital as a sustainable, trusted anchor for generations ahead.

Ridge Ambulance Service offers its full and unequivocal support for this important initiative. We deeply value our ongoing collaboration with the hospital and recognize the profound, positive impact these improvements will have on the communities we both serve.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing healthcare in our region. Please feel free to contact me at any time if additional information or perspective would be useful.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Probst", is written over the typed name.

Steve Probst

Rochelle Station Supervisor

Ridge Ambulance Service

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