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Mr. Jeffrey S. Mark, Executive Secretary  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Health Facilities Planning Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RECEIVED**

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HEALTH FACILITIES  
PLANNING BOARD

Dear Mr. Mark:

I write to support the application for the Good Samaritan Regional Health Center replacement facility.

I have been a resident of Mt. Vernon all of my life, now 73 years. As an attorney and also as Episcopal clergy, I visit Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon with some frequency and also other hospitals in other locations, including St. Louis and in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Mayo Clinic.

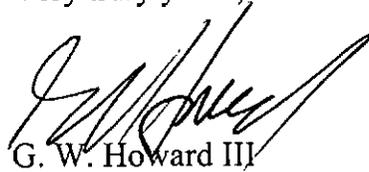
The Good Samaritan Hospital does wonderful work, but its facilities in Mt. Vernon are aged and now inadequate. Their staff and doctors provide quality service, but there is no way to further improve or renovate their aging facilities in their present location.

The people of Mt. Vernon and Southern Illinois need this replacement facility. Our population is aging and will need even more quality care in the future. I understand that nearly 30% of our people will be 55 or older by 2011.

Recently I visited a mockup of the proposed new patient and emergency room facilities. They will be state-of-the-art.

Thank you for helping Mt. Vernon and Good Samaritan to continue to receive quality care in new and state-of-the art facilities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Howard III", written in a cursive style.

G. W. Howard III

HIII/rac