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Jeffrey S. Mark
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Illinois Department of Public Health
Health Facility Planning Board
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HEALTH FACILITIES
PLANNING BOARD

November 4, 2008

Dear Mr. Mark ~

Mt. Vernon, Illinois is poised to become a medical Mecca in southern Illinois.

Located at the intersection of two interstates, our region is moving to accommodate the needs of our aging population and baby boomers who migrate to a rural lifestyle. Developers are building retirement communities and assisted living centers. The city and county are developing master plans to assure controlled future growth.

A key component in this design is the relocation of a community institution; **Good Samaritan Regional Health Center.**

The current facility is crowded, landlocked and sadly showing its age of over 60-years. The staff continues to offer quality and compassionate healthcare in spite of obstacles raised by an outdated facility. In addition, the facility negatively impacts recruitment and retention of medical professionals in our community.

The proposed new medical center, to be located near a new interstate exchange, will be easily accessed by citizens from throughout southern Illinois. Patients and their families will benefit from new programs and services. Our community and the entire region will gain as healthcare dollars and jobs stay locally.

Good Samaritan Regional Health Center is a vital part of the lives of our citizens. Their staff cared for my grandparents, parents, spouse and me. This is where my children and grandchildren were born. Some years ago my father, wife and I were employed there. As "Good Sam" is an essential part of our history, a new health center will be crucial to our future.

It's time to replace the current facility with one that meets the needs of our community and the 21st century.

Thank you.

Sincerely ~

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Floyd Brookman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'F'.

Floyd Brookman
Executive Director