



**ALEXIAN**  
**BROTHERS**  
Hospital Network

March 23, 2011

**RECEIVED**

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Dale Galassie  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 10-089

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to express my firm opposition to Mercy Hospital's application to build a new hospital. I am the Chief Financial Officer of the Alexian Brothers Medical Group. Our medical group is affiliated with the St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates. We know residents in the northern Fox Valley are served well by several hospitals in the area and we oppose Mercy's plan for a new hospital in Crystal Lake because it would duplicate health care services.

Our physician group has more than 30 primary care physicians who treat patients at 11 offices. One of our locations is in Elgin, only a few miles from McHenry County. In addition, our physicians staff seven immediate care facilities and occupational health facilities and are involved in specialty services. The specialists affiliated with our practice address the neurosciences, breast health, cardiovascular and geriatric issues, to name a few.

St. Alexius is just one of several regional medical centers in the far northwest suburban area. For example, Advocate Good Shepherd, Sherman and Provena St. Joseph also offer comprehensive care. Hospitals that have had projects approved in the last several years – namely St. Alexius, Sherman and Provena St. Joseph – all promised the board that they would serve a regional population that includes southern Mc Henry County. In fact, all the hospitals depend on that population to support the kind of high-quality specialty care that residents have come to expect.

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Project 10-089

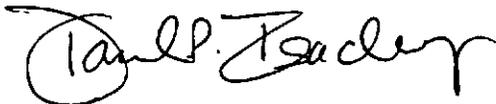
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If the Mercy project is approved, however, the new hospital would weaken all of the current regional medical centers. In effect, the Mercy hospital – which would offer basic, limited care – would make it tougher for all the other facilities to provide specialized services such as open heart surgery and advanced pediatric care.

As we all know, the financial resources that can be devoted to health care, whether they come from government or private insurers and patients' pockets, are finite. Spending these scarce resources on a duplicative facility would only weaken the financial support for the established excellent network of health resources available today. I am confident the board will take these points into serious consideration and reject Mercy's certificate of need application.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Isachsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent part.

Daniel Isachsen

Chief Financial Officer

Alexian Brothers Medical Group