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 LeAnn T. Rhinehart, RN, MSN, FNP

September 15, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
 525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
 Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: In Support of Project #14-043 St. Elizabeth's Hospital's replacement in O'Fallon

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon. I represent Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois, which is the largest interdisciplinary group of cancer dedicated physicians in Illinois outside of Chicago. Our nineteen physicians and three nurse practitioners provide state of the art cancer care throughout central and southern Illinois. Over the last two years we have worked with the administration of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to improve cancer care services in the Metro East area to get their needed cancer care elsewhere. This out-migration has occurred in part because there has not been local access to National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trials in the Metro East area. Now that deficiency will be corrected.

This August we opened our first outpatient office in Swansea, led by Dr. Mark Walshauer, and soon patients in the Metro East region will have access to the same cutting edge research programs that are available at cancer centers such as Siteman in St. Louis and MD Anderson in Texas. Dr. Walshauer is a member of the Heartland National Community Oncology Research Program, which is one of only 34 community based cancer research programs in the United States, and which provides access to modern cancer care for patients throughout Illinois and Missouri.

Dr. Walshauer is also the new Medical Director for Oncology at St. Elizabeth Hospital, and he is working with administration to rebuild the cancer program with the goal of becoming certified by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. This certification assures patients and the public that cancer care provided by St. Elizabeth's meets the highest quality standards. To achieve this goal, it is clear that St. Elizabeth's needs new laboratory space for the emerging science of personalized medicine. St. Elizabeth's needs improved operating rooms to enhance minimally invasive surgery. Finally, St. Elizabeth's needs replacement patient rooms to improve infection control for patients whose immune system is weakened. The most practical and cost-effective pathway to meet these needs is to build a replacement hospital.

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Clinics in Clinton, Fairfield, Flora, Highland, Monticello, Olney, Pana, Shelbyville, Taylorville, and Vandalia

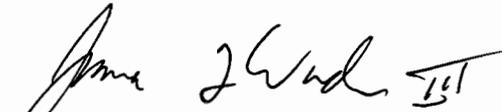
Diplomates of the American Boards of Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, Hematology, Radiology, Pathology, and Urology

Affiliated with National Cancer Institute supported research organizations including MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Chicago, Southwest Oncology Group, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, Gynecologic Oncology Group, National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, University of Rochester Cancer Center, Wake Forest University Cancer Center, NCI Clinical Trials Support Unit, and CCCCOP

www.CancerCareSpecialists.org

In recognition of the growing Metro East population and our experience knowing that patient care volume will increase as the cancer program improves and matures, the new location for the replacement hospital in O'Fallon makes the most sense. We look forward to working with St. Elizabeth's Hospital for decades to come in delivering world class cancer care to home. With the new replacement hospital and patient centered outpatient cancer care, we envision our Metro East service to grow to four cancer specialists physicians and employ more than twenty full time staff. Although, the new jobs provided in the Metro East are important, the greatest impact will be the improved experience and outcome that cancer patients and their families will have. On behalf of all of us at Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois, we strongly support the St. Elizabeth's Hospital application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Wade III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "W".

James L. Wade III, MD, FACP, FASCO
President, Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois, S.C.
Principal Investigator, Heartland NCORP

JLW/kmv

CC: Maryann Reese