October 29, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St.
(Second Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

This letter is in support of the move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Project # 14-043 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and Project #14-044 for St. Elizabeth's Hospital-Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon).

The present building was constructed in the early 1950s. Imagine if you owned an automobile purchased in that same era. By now it would be nickel and diming you. It would have lost most if not all of its value. You would probably buy a new car with the latest and most up-to-date features. I realize buying or replacing a car is different than moving and building a new hospital. The cost to maintain the current facility is not feasible or advisable. One could do some upgrading but in another year or two one would be forced to make additional improvements. Maintaining an old structure is not a wise decision.

I support the proposal to relocate St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois. I ask that the Review Board understand the need and overall savings for everyone by approving this move.

Sincerely,

Tom Vernier

Tom Vernier
5717 Lake Briar Dr.
Millstadt, IL 62260

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street-2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Attn: Mr. Mike Constantino
In RE: Project #14-043 and 14-044 St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, IL

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I was pleased to learn of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois, plan to build a regional leading replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois. I am writing this letter in support of their project.

It would seem to me that the economic well being of the entire Metro-East area would be better served with the addition of the new campus. The ability of adding an additional medical specialty clinic and bringing additional jobs, would be more likely in the new campus versus the current contained area.

The interstate location will provide the communities with quicker access to the highest level of acute care when needed and will stem the outmigration of patients to St. Louis hospitals. Fifteen thousand adults from this region of Illinois cross the river to seek inpatient care at St. Louis hospitals. That number can support an entire standalone hospital. The new hospital will be able to keep high-quality care close to home.

The location of the new hospital in O'Fallon will reduce the time to transfer critical patients needing a higher level of care. This is especially true in the case of heart attacks or stroke care. The new St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be a full service hospital providing inpatient care, open heart surgery, neurosurgery as well as many outpatient services and a medical office building that would house specialty physicians.

In reference to the concern as to why St. Elizabeth's is building a facility so close to Memorial East in Shiloh, Memorial East will only be a "satellite" facility, not a full service hospital. The main Memorial Hospital services will remain in Belleville, therefore this project of the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital will not duplicate services offered in Shiloh. To the contrary it eliminates duplication that currently exists in Belleville.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I urge you to approve St. Elizabeth's replacement in O'Fallon, Illinois to enhance healthcare for all residents of the Metro-East region.

Sincerely,

Larry Essenpreis
1741 Sebastopol Road
Highland, Illinois 62249
618-791-7234

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Springfield, IL 62761
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Sincerely,

Kathleen Essenpreis

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1741 Sebastopol Road
Highland, IL 62249
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