

November 14, 2014

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: In support of project #14-043 St. Elizabeth's Hospital's Replacement Hospital in O'Fallon, IL

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been serving the healthcare needs of southern Illinois for 140 years at its current 17 acre location in downtown Belleville. In fact, I was born there and my daughter was also born there.

The current hospital is 70 year's old and needs extensive renovations and upgrades to provide 21st century level of accommodations to our community. The cost of remodeling the current hospital is double the cost of building a replacement hospital. As a result, the Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), which owns the hospital has determined that it is time to build a replacement hospital. HSHS has purchased 160 acres of property on Green Mount Road in O'Fallon for the replacement hospital. This location was selected because of its access to Highway 64.

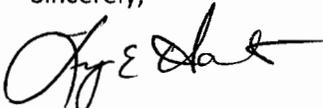
The new St. Elizabeth's Hospital will be a state of the art facility that will serve the needs of everyone in our region. Construction of the hospital and a physician office building will require an investment of \$300 million and will generate many good paying jobs for our community. When the project is completed, the new hospital will have 144 rooms and offer full services to our community. Our community needs this project.

HSHS will continue to offer services in Belleville and will not allow the current hospital building to become abandoned. If a suitable buyer isn't available, the buildings will be raised and the area redesigned to benefit the community.

Additional facts about the project and pictures of the new building are available at www.supportsteliz.org.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Lynn E. Hatcher
805 W. Johnson, Collinsville, IL 62234