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October 7, 2015

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street—2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

Dear Mike Constantino and the IHFSR Review Board members,

The Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau® supports the proposed medical facility project for Rockford Memorial Hospital at the Riverside Boulevard Campus in Rockford. We support the Illinois Farm Bureau® policy to provide additional health care resources where needed.

According to the Occupational Safety & Health Association, agriculture ranks among the most dangerous industries. Every day, about 243 agricultural workers in the U.S. suffer a serious lost-work-time injury and five percent of those injuries result in permanent impairment. Agriculture provides a total of 1,319 jobs in Boone County and 1,498 jobs in Winnebago County.

Accessible medical services in or near the agricultural community reduces the response times and can lead to a decrease in fatality rates. Rockford Memorial-North Rockton location services the agricultural residents in the north and west portions of Winnebago County, however, the residents of Boone County have to drive through Rockford to reach one of the three medical facilities. For example, residents on the east side of Boone County have approximately a forty five minute drive or more to reach OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center.

The Rockford Memorial Hospital- Riverside Boulevard Campus in Rockford will provide additional health care resources to the residents in Boone and Winnebago Counties. We ask that the IHFSR Review Board approves the proposed medical facility project for Rockford Memorial Hospital at the Riverside Boulevard Campus in Rockford.

Sincerely,

Richard Beuth
President
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Mission Statement

*Be the voice, resource, and advocate for farm families and agriculture,
while promoting stewardship for today and future generations.*