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August 17, 2016

Via Federal Express
Via Email

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Southern Illinois Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Center (Proj. No 15-061)

Dear Chair. Olson:

Polsinelli PC represents Southern Illinois Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Center, LLC ("SIGEC"); Southern Illinois G.I. Specialists, LLC ("SIGIS") and Zahoor Makhdoom, M.D. (collectively, the "Applicants"). We are writing to request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (the "State Board") consider the Applicants' application to establish a endoscopy center in Carbondale, Illinois at the September 13, 2016 State Board meeting.

As you are aware, the project received an intent to deny at the June 21, 2016 State Board meeting. Importantly, three members of the State Board were not present at that meeting, which may have contributed to the issuance of an intent to deny. We hope by presenting the application at the September 13, 2016 meeting in Springfield, more State Board members will be in attendance to hear about this project that is vital to the health of the Southern Illinois region.

Since receiving an intent to deny, members of the Carbondale community have expressed interest in testifying in support of SIGEC when the application is reconsidered. The proposed endoscopy center will be located in Carbondale, Illinois, which is 3 hours from Springfield and 5 hours from Bolingbrook, the location of the October 25, 2016 State Board meeting. While Carbondale is a significant distance from Springfield, requiring individuals to travel to Bolingbrook to testify in support of the project will create an undue hardship. Supporters will need to drive up the day before the meeting and stay overnight in a hotel. Given the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and supporters of SIGEC will be the last members of the public to testify at the meeting, they will likely not present their testimony until late in the morning, which means they will not return to Carbondale until late afternoon or early evening. For those



Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
August 17, 2016
Page 2

individuals who work this will require taking two days off, and for those physicians who have committed to testifying in support of the project, rescheduling their patients on those days. If the project was considered at the meeting in Springfield, these individuals could drive to Springfield on the morning of the meeting and return to Carbondale by early afternoon, thus, minimizing their time and costs.

Finally, additional information was submitted in response to the intent to deny on August 8, 2016. The amount of information was not substantial as it focused solely on concerns raised by State Board members, namely, submission of a patient transfer agreement, 2016 payor mix data, revised assistance program charges and Medicare reimbursement information for colonoscopies and EGD procedures. We do not believe incorporating this new information into the Supplemental State Board Report would entail substantial revisions to the report that was prepared for the June State Board meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Applicants' request for consideration of the SIGEC at the September 13, 2016 State Board meeting. If you need any additional information regarding the proposed project, feel free to contact me at 312-873-3606 or acooper@polsinelli.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne M. Cooper".

Anne M. Cooper

cc: Courtney Avery