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MAY 16 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Chairman Galassie:

This letter is written in support of the pending Certificate of Exemption application which is referenced above. This transaction contemplates a change of ownership of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois in Marion. It is my understanding that this request does not require substantive review by the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board because the applicant meets the requirements for an exemption. Regardless, I would like to express my support for the project. I have been employed at the surgery center for over 9 years. I feel as though we have always provided excellent care for all our patients, and will continue to do so irregardless of who the new owner might be. In light of the fact that all the ~~the~~ physicians of the "Marion Eye Center " group now perform all surgeries in their new center in Mt. Vernon, and because they all remain partners in this business and continue to have privileges here. I am hesitant to think that they have the best interest of this community and their patient at heart. The facility is currently controlled and managed by a national surgery center chain, and this transaction would bring local control and management to the surgery center. The principal of the planned general partner of the venture is Mr. Ronald E Osman, who has been active in the community and several area businesses for decades. Most notably, Mr. Osman has experience as one of the individuals originally involved with the development of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. Mr. Osman understands the complexities of health care services. He will implement prudent management strategies while maintaining access to services for the community at large. Based upon my experience with Mr. Osman, I am confident that the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois will be well run and will be operated with the best interests of its patients and staff in mind.

I thank you for bringing this matter to the public for comment as you rules provide as I appreciate having the opportunity to support Cirurgia Centro as the new manager and general partner of this facility. This is a non-controversial transaction from a health planning perspective, and I'm sure the CON Board's approval will be forthcoming in the due course

Sincerely, *Earl M. Goddard*

*Earl M. Goddard*

*P.O. Box 154*

*Vienna, IL. 62995*