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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery,

We are writing in support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital moving to the I-64 corridor in O'Fallon. I My husband & I have been Belleville residents for many years. I worked at St. Elizabeth's Hospital & my husband was a dentist in Belleville for over forty years. For all of these years we have supported both St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Memorial Hospital in their efforts to provide outstanding health care to our community. Unfortunately it is readily apparent that St. Elizabeth's cannot continue to provide excellent patient care in a deteriorating building.

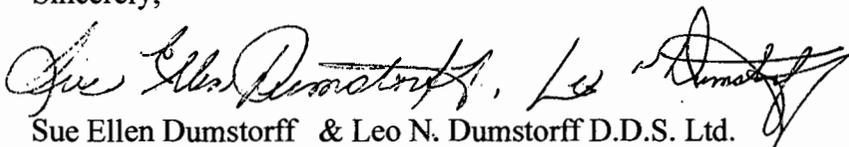
As Vice Chair of the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Leadership Council (St. Elizabeth's philanthropic arm) I can tell you that the hospital did not take the decision to move to a new building lightly. As a not-for-profit hospital system, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis operate on a very stringent budget. If it was financially prudent to retrofit the building – believe me – that would be the plan.

Ultimately it makes more economic sense to build a new facility that can adjust to rapid advances in medical technology and keep up with modern hospital code. It would be unacceptable to ask St. Elizabeth's to lower its standards of care to our community and offer behind-the-times treatment because the facility has become so out of date.

By relocating off of the interstate, patients driving from East St. Louis, Caseyville, and Washington Park will be able to reach the new hospital faster. For those who do not drive, it is my understanding Metro Bus is planning to add the new hospital to its routes. This convenient location will also provide a direct line to its sister hospitals in Breese and Highland, and it will be easier for emergency transport for severe trauma or pediatric cases that are sent to St. Louis hospitals.

I stand with St. Elizabeth's mission to provide excellent healthcare to anyone in need. Our community must continue to receive great healthcare. An up-to-date, modern facility goes hand-in-hand with the compassionate care delivered by St. Elizabeth's physicians and nurses. I support a new building and location for St. Elizabeth's Hospital because patient care comes first.

Sincerely,


Sue Ellen Dumstorff & Leo N. Dumstorff D.D.S. Ltd.