

HILL LAW OFFICES

Thomas A. Hill

Highland Business Park
100 Executive Drive
Highland, IL 62249

Telephone: 618-654-9787
Facsimile: 618-654-4827
hill-law@hometel.com

November 11, 2014

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: In Support of Project # 14-043
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Replacement Hospital in O'Fallon, IL
In Support of Project # 14-044
St. Elizabeth's Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) should approve a plan to construct a Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital at O'Fallon, Illinois.

The Illinois jobs were a major theme of the recently concluded election campaign. Approval of Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital will set the stage for more, high paying Illinois jobs. Initially, construction of the replacement hospital will support many good paying construction jobs. In the longer term, hundreds of high paying health care jobs will result.

For decades, hospitals in Missouri have been the most convenient choice for many Illinoisans needing more complex health care treatment. While heart surgery, stroke treatment and neurosurgery have been available in Belleville for some years, interstate highways serving Southwestern Illinois made St. Louis, Missouri the more convenient place to receive these and other specialized health care services. Fifteen thousand adult Illinoisans cross the Mississippi River for inpatient care annually. The Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, will allow many of those patients to receive the care needed in Illinois and much closer to home.

A Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital would improve patient access for the vast majority of citizens in Madison, St. Clair, Bond, Clinton and other counties in Southern Illinois. This reality more than offsets any inconvenience to some residents in Belleville and south of the existing St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Moreover, Memorial Hospital will still provide convenient access for the more basic health care services needed by these patients. It will also continue to provide access to the more specialized treatments in Belleville for those preferring to receive care there.

Page 2

November 11, 2014

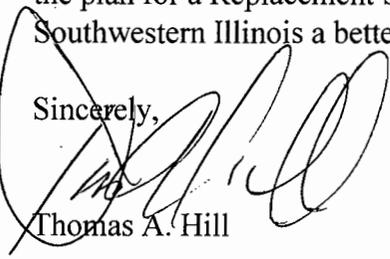
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board

Re: Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital

The existing St. Elizabeth's Hospital apparently has significant functional obsolescence. Today's expanding out-patient treatment model does not fit efficiently into the existing facility. Apparently, major renovations of the hospital infrastructure at St. Elizabeth's are needed. To replace St. Elizabeth's Hospital at its current location would ignore the shifts in the location population caused largely by changes in the highway transportation system in Metro-East Illinois. Locating the Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital where the population has moved and grown makes good sense.

Approving the plan for Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital will make specialized healthcare treatment more convenient for Illinoisans. Approving the plan will enhance the outlook for good paying Illinois jobs. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the plan for a Replacement St. Elizabeth's Hospital at O'Fallon, Illinois. Help make Southwestern Illinois a better place to live and work in good health.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Hill

TAH/sr