August 24, 2020

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

Re: Opposition to CON Project #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please deny this application as submitted. If the Review Board wishes to encourage an acceptable middle ground, please insist upon a modified application that neither duplicates existing hospital services nor doubles the size of the current medical office building.

Having founded Kingery Printing Company, I have the perspective of a significant employer in the Effingham area. As a past board member of St. Anthony's Hospital, I also understand the dramatic negative health care impacts this CON project would bring to my community.

Since no new patients or providers are envisioned in the declining-population Effingham area, this greatly enlarged medical office building with redundant services will simply shift patients and revenue away from St. Anthony's, which the federal government officially considers a Sole Community Hospital. The result will be a reduction of hospital services and jobs. The level of St. Anthony's community support will also decline, if not cease. Such a financial hit would be especially devastating to St. Anthony's after it has already suffered steep pandemic-related losses due to state-mandated suspension and reduction of elective procedures. The Review Board should make it a priority to preserve and support Sole Community Hospitals like St. Anthony's. A similarly sized replacement building, without the duplication of services, would be acceptable – but CON project number 20-030 as currently proposed should be denied.

Sincerely,

John F. Kingery

John Kingery
Chairman, Kingery Printing Company
3012 S. Banker Street
Effingham, IL 62401

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
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