



COLUMBUS REGIONAL HOSPITAL

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Baron P. Hill  
United States House of Representatives  
223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1409

Dear Congressman Hill,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Appropriations Questionnaire. We are submitting this letter of support for the Columbus Regional Hospital (CRH) Expanded Emergency Department and new Patient Tower project. As Trustees of CRH, we take seriously both the economic impact and health impact of maintaining a quality workplace and quality healthcare provider for our community and the region.

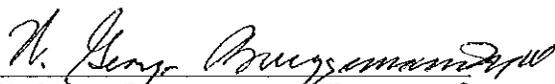
The economic recovery of CRH includes the Expanded ED and Patient Tower; this project has been in development for over four years and the need has increased in urgency rather than going away. In preparation for this project, CRH had been diligently saving funds to lessen the need for loans; 100% of those savings were used to keep CRH employees on the payroll during the time the Hospital was closed due to 2008 flood damage. With the current economic environment, it will take many years to re-build that level of savings.

In addition to maintaining a facility that can support quality healthcare process for all of our patients, we also need a facility that utilizes design features that protect our workforce and increases our efficiency and effectiveness as care-givers. The urgency and rationale for the new construction has not changed, and in fact continues to be critical. An appropriation, grants, and other federal assistance programs are the only way this new hospital construction can move forward at this time. We hope you will consider this a significant project as you look to support economic development, economic recovery, and the healthcare options for citizens in our community and region.

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

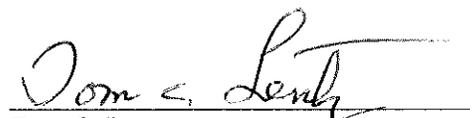
Sincerely,

Columbus Regional Hospital Board of Trustees

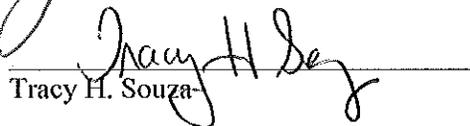
  
W. George Brueggemann MD

  
Donald L. Michael

  
Albert H. Schumaker II

  
Tom C. Lentz

  
John A. Nash

  
Tracy H. Souza



**columbusindiana**  
unexpected.unforgettable.

Fred L. Armstrong, Mayor

March 24, 2009

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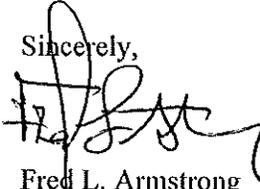
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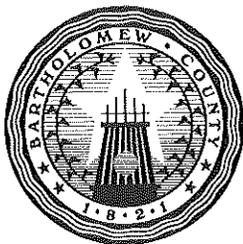
As you know, we have a very vital, active, and responsive economic development plan for our community, county, and region. I support the hospital's appropriation request for their facility expansion not only as a significant need in our community but also as a key economic growth factor. The ability to offer state-of-the-art healthcare is essential in attracting new employers and retaining existing ones.

While current economic conditions are impacting hospitals across the nation, the 2008 flood created additional challenges for our local, award-winning Columbus Regional Hospital. The hospital was weeks away from beginning construction work after years of planning and saving for a new expanded Emergency Department and Inpatient Tower when the devastating flood hit. Consequently, the hospital made the decision to spend its savings in order to retain its highly trained, skilled and dedicated workforce and kept its employees on the payroll during the four and one half months the facility was closed in 2008. This decision not only enabled the hospital to re-open as quickly as it did but also avoided the economic impact that laying off 1,800 individuals would have had on this community and region.

The urgency and need for the new construction has not changed and continues to be critical. An appropriation, grant funding, and other federal assistance programs are the only foreseeable way the hospital expansion project can move forward at this time. We hope you will consider this significant project as you look to support economic development, economic recovery, and the healthcare needs for the citizens in our community and region.

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

Sincerely,  
  
Fred L. Armstrong  
Mayor



**Bartholomew County Commissioners**

Governmental Office Building Suite 101  
440 Third Street  
Columbus, Indiana 47201

Phone (812) 379-1515  
FAX (812) 379-1797

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United States House of Representatives  
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Washington, D.C. 20515-1409

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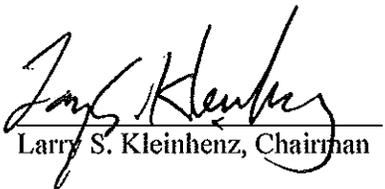
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Thank you for your work on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Bartholomew County Commissioners

  
Larry S. Kleinhenz, Chairman

  
Paul Franke, Member

  
Carl H. Lienhoop, Member