



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

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FIFTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
COURTS OF JUSTICE  
COMMERCE AND LABOR

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor McDonnell:

This past April, I attended a public hearing in Haymarket concerning the proposal by Prince William Hospital to build a new 40-bed hospital on their Haymarket campus. As you know, the public hearing is one of the key steps a provider must participate in when seeking approval for a new hospital under Virginia's Certificate of Public Need (COPN) process.

Prince William Hospital is one of the cornerstones of the community that I am proud to represent. Its presence and commitment to Manassas and Western Prince William County has been evident for over 45 years. This strong commitment to community service was evident at the public hearing where nearly 500 residents attended to show their support for Prince William Hospital's proposal. Additionally, the proposal has overwhelming support from local elected officials such as Manassas Mayor Harry Parrish, as well as the Prince William County Sheriff, Glen Hill. Additionally, their proposal also has the support of State Senator Charles Colgan and myself.

Shortly after the public hearing, the local health-planning agency in Northern Virginia, which is comprised of Northern Virginia providers and consumers, sent the Virginia Department of Health a unanimous recommendation of approval for this proposal. Unfortunately, notwithstanding this recommendation and overwhelming local support, and even though the State's Division of Certificate of Public Need at the Virginia Department of Health found that the beds that are being requested are in fact needed, the Division of Certificate of Public Need has recommended that the Health Commissioner deny this proposal.

I am very concerned about the apparent disconnect between some of the decisions being made in Richmond and the needs of Prince William County.

The COPN regulations give flexibility to the Health Commissioner regarding the criteria considered in this process. Those criteria include the recommendation of local health planning agency, as well as community support, and especially local travel times to hospitals that in Prince William County exceed 45 minutes. These factors are paramount to the consideration of any application.

With a growing population of more than 100,000 people, the Haymarket area is more than large enough to support a new hospital especially when you consider that despite having nearly 20% of the planning district's population, *only* 12% of the region's general acute care beds are located within Prince William County.

I strongly support the application of Prince William Hospital. In addition, I am concerned that many in Richmond may be misconstruing data in the COPN process instead of making their decision based upon the merits of an application that has strong support from the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackson H. Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Jackson H. Miller  
Member, House of Delegates  
50<sup>th</sup> District

CC: The Honorable Bill Bolling, Lt. Governor  
The Honorable Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health & Human Resources