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TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS

Council Members

Dr. Caryl B. Burns
Marc Church
Jim Mackie
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Ms. Julie Halatek
Project Analyst
Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704



RE: Comments Regarding Caldwell Surgery Center, CON Project ID # E-10358-14

Dear Ms. Halatek:

As the Town Manager for Granite Falls, I am writing in support of the approval of the Caldwell Surgery Center Certificate of Need application. Caldwell Surgery Center will offer excellent quality of service, patient convenience and cost savings. In addition, this project will attract additional physicians and create well-paying jobs.

The Town of Granite Falls is served by several major highways. US Highway 321 and US Highway 321A are primary transit corridors for Granite Falls and the entire region. Additionally, the Town is located only minutes from Interstate 40 and US Highway 70. Locating the proposed Caldwell Surgery Center in Granite Falls is reasonable because this location is near multiple corridors of growth and access.

As demand for ambulatory surgery procedures has increased over the past years, several licensed ambulatory surgery centers have been developed in Hickory and Morganton. Both of these municipalities are located in adjoining counties that border Caldwell County. These facilities offer patient choice for patients from Catawba and Burke Counties as well as patients from Caldwell and other counties.

Now is the time for the development of an ambulatory surgical facility within Caldwell County to provide a more balanced distribution of health services. Caldwell Surgery Center's proposal should be approved because this facility will provide positive competition and patient choice. The majority of the population of Caldwell County is concentrated in the southeast region; Granite Falls is in close proximity to numerous large residential areas and municipalities. The selected site in Granite Falls offers high visibility and convenient access for the Caldwell Surgery Center and medical office building. Both Caldwell Memorial Hospital and numerous physicians have documented their support for the project at the Granite Falls location.


Locating a licensed ambulatory surgery center near the border of an adjacent county is not unusual because population centers may be more concentrated in certain outlying areas of a county and are often near major highways. The NC Department of Health and Human Services maintains a list of all the licensed ambulatory surgical facilities in North Carolina. A review of this list reveals that there are many licensed ambulatory surgery facilities located near the border of adjoining counties as follows:

1. Boice-Willis Clinic Endoscopy Center located in Rocky Mount near Edgecombe County
2. Carolina Birth Center located in High Point near Randolph, Davidson and Forsyth Counties
3. Carolina Digestive Care, PLLC located in Morganton near Caldwell County
4. CarolinaEast Internal Medicine located in Pollockville near Craven County
5. Center for Digestive Diseases & Cary Endoscopy CTR, PC located in Cary near Durham County
6. Charlotte Gastroenterology & Hepatology, PLLC located in Huntersville near Iredell County
7. Digestive Health Endoscopy Center of Kernersville near Guilford County
8. Gastroenterology Associates of Hickory near Caldwell County
9. Greystone Eye Surgery Center located in Hickory near Caldwell County
10. High Point Endoscopy Center near Randolph, Davidson and Forsyth Counties
11. High Point Surgery Center near Randolph, Davidson and Forsyth Counties
12. Matthews Surgery Center in Mecklenburg County near Union County
13. Novant Health Ballantyne Outpatient Surgery in Mecklenburg near Lancaster and York Counties (South Carolina)
14. Novant Health Huntersville Outpatient Surgery near Lincoln and Iredell Counties
15. Surgery Center of Morganton Eye Physicians near Caldwell County
16. Union West Surgery Center located in Indian Trail near Mecklenburg County
17. Viewmont Surgery Center located in Hickory near Caldwell County

Justification for the proposed Caldwell Surgery Center is well documented in the Certificate of Need application which includes extensive information regarding the facility and site. The proposal includes letters of support from surgeons who intend to perform surgery at the facility. Letters of support from other healthcare providers and referring physicians also show that this project would be of great benefit to our citizens. I urge the Certificate of Need Section to approve this project application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the Granite Falls Town Office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,


Jerry T. Church
Town Manager