



June 8, 2021

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

RE: Letter of Support for an adjusted need determination for 1 additional operating room in the Lee County, North Carolina OR service area in the *2022 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is George Parker. I currently reside in Moore County, but grew up in Sanford, North Carolina. My company, Frontier Yarns, is headquartered in Sanford as well. I am writing this letter to support the petition submitted by Pinehurst Surgical Clinic ("PSC") for an adjusted need determination for 2 additional operating rooms ("OR") in the Lee County, North Carolina OR service area in the *2022 State Medical Facilities Plan* ("SMFP").

Historically, there has been one hospital, Central Carolina Hospital, with 1 inpatient OR and 6 shared ORs in Lee County. Given its rural nature, the SMFP does not fully capture the need for additional ambulatory surgery services in Lee County. Over a four-year period, Lee County has experienced extensive outmigration for ambulatory surgery services. From 2016 to 2019, outpatient surgical volume at Central Carolina Hospital has declined, while outmigration from Lee County for outpatient surgical services has steadily increased. In 2019 alone, Lee County experienced **an outmigration of 49.8 percent for ambulatory surgery services**.

PSC believes it is important for Lee County patients to have access to surgery services close to home. In 2020 PSC had over 2,000 outpatient referrals from Lee County and these patients were primarily served in Moore County facilities. This outmigration places a burden on patients and their families. My patients have personally experienced difficulties due to the limited availability of outpatient surgery in Lee County.

Frontier Yarns employees over 900 people in the state of North Carolina. Of that total over 350 are employed at our Lee County facilities. We hear about the struggles our employees and their loved ones face in finding good healthcare in Lee County/Sanford. Many times they have to make the decision to travel to other facilities in order to meet their healthcare needs. This creates an extra burden for them as well as their family. Too often they choose to wait or not seek the medical attention they need or deserve.

Due to the limited options for surgical care in Lee County, large numbers of patients are leaving Lee County for their surgery. This out-migration is not captured in the SMFP, and as a result, there is no need recognized in the 2022 Draft SFMP that would allow for Lee County residents to have a choice in surgical care within their home county. The amount of patients outmigrating from Lee County would support a need for, at minimum, one or more ORs.

Lee County residents would significantly benefit from access to a second surgical option within the county. I fully support the requested petition to recognize a need for 2 ORs in the 2022 SMFP. An ambulatory surgery center with 2 ORs could be developed to increase access and choice of care for residents of Lee County. In addition, patients are provided quality outpatient surgical care at much lower rates in an ASC setting than they are in a hospital OR. This amounts to more cost-effective care being provided in an ASC setting, which is an option unavailable to Lee County residents locally today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Parker".

George Parker
Vice President of Sales
Frontier Yarns