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DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

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Medical Facilities Planning Section
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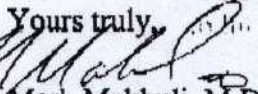
Letter in support of Petition Regarding: Change Methodology for Radiation
Oncology – Linear Accelerators For the 2009 State Medical Facilities Plan

Dear Miss Potter:

I am a practicing urologist in Statesville, North Carolina. Along with other urologists, I see and treat many men with prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is a complicated disease in that it is very common yet kills the minority affected. Still, it is second only to lung cancer in cancer mortality in men.

Who to treat and how aggressively is one of the most difficult decisions in therapy. Surgery and more recently radiation therapy have become the standard of care. Unfortunately, when I send a patient for radiation, they too often return with preventable injuries – burns to their bladder or rectum, excessive bleeding, erection and voiding issues. These patients, if under the care of urologists and rehabilitation specialists during the course of therapy, may have had their injuries tempered by tailoring the beam and adjusting dosages. This is just not happening anywhere in the state.

Cary Urology's proposed center presents an interesting and well thought out plan. The input of radiation oncology, hematology oncology and urology along with the support staff and outreach may be just what this state needs to alter our dismal prostate mortality rates. I found it particularly wise the proposed center had all physician specialties as co-owners, thus negating self referral issues. I strongly support this concept and if it works, would hopefully have the ability to see such a center in our area. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Mark Makhuli, M.D.