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August 15, 2012

Nadine Pfeiffer, Chief, Planning Section
Division of Facility Services
801 Ruggles Drive
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

RE: Carteret General Hospital Petition for Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

Dear Ms. Pfeiffer,

On behalf of the Carteret Economic Development Council Board of Directors, I ask that DHSR Planning Staff recommend **and** that the full State Health Coordinating Council approve the request from Carteret General Hospital for an adjusted need determination for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County for the **2013 State Medical Facilities Plan**.

The track record of Carteret General with regard to quality is well documented in their petition. Cardiac catheterization would have the same level of attention.

Please agree to the petitions from both Carteret General Hospital and Johnston Memorial Hospital to include a special need for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization unit in Carteret County and address the temporary rule to permit cardiac catheterization laboratories that meet the AHA guidelines to offer both therapeutic and diagnostic catheterizations.

Carteret General's access to a cardiac catheterization laboratory would complement, not replace, the cardiology services of CarolinaEast Medical Center.

The EDC Board invites you to visit the Crystal Coast and hope you will come during tourist season so you may appreciate the travel hurdles faced by our rural communities. We know that heart disease is a dominant health problem here. We have seen the numbers in the hospital's petition and believe it is time to permit the County to develop a cardiac catheterization program. It would be done with careful thought and good planning.

Sincerely,

Myles Stempin
Executive Director

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