

PERKINS INVESTMENTS, LLC  
P. O. BOX 525  
SANFORD, NC 27331-0525



May 24, 2021

North Carolina State Coordinating Council  
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation  
Healthcare Planning 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 R. Perkins, Jr. and I am a business owner, as well as homeowner, in Lee County. 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.**

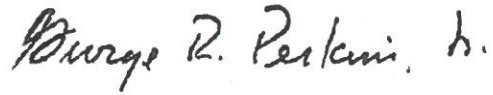
PSC believes it is important for Lee County patients to have access to surgery services close to home. In 2020 PSC had over 2,000 outpatient referrals from Lee County and these patients were primarily served in Moore County facilities. This outmigration places a burden on patients and their families.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

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 patents out-migrating 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 MFP. An ambulatory surgery center with 2 ORs could be developed to increase access and choice of care for resident of Lee County. In addition, patients are proved a quality outpatient surgical care at much lower rates in an ASC

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 black ink that reads "George R. Perkin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George R. Perkin, Jr.  
CEO  
Perkins Investments, LLC

GRPjr:dsh