

ARCHIE B. TAYLOR, JR.
County Commissioner, District 2, Vance County, NC
P. O. BOX 2630
HENDERSON, NC, 27536

August 7, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Maria Parham Health's petition opposing the State's identified bed need in the Vance-Warren service area. As a long time resident, Health Systems Board Member, County Commissioner for Vance County and retired Army Colonel, I have had the pleasure of serving my community in a number of ways and in many local venues.

I understand the need to balance the demands of several stakeholders to serve many. In recent years Maria Parham has been deliberate about evolving the services and access to vital health services for the region – a region categorized as “rural” and “underserved – a State economic Tier 1 county.

I am sure you are aware of the current state of rural healthcare infrastructure access -- and -- that it is under duress due to a number of environmental and economic factors. This makes the protection of our health system and infrastructure critical during these very challenging times. Consequently, the balance of viability is delicate for the next 3 to 5 years.

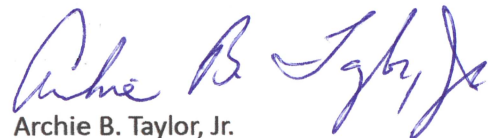
The potential entrant of a competitor premature to population and economic growth would compromise that viability.

I am particularly concerned that the increased cost to our hospital, Maria Parham Health and consequently our local citizenry as it relates to services such as Labor and Delivery and Behavioral health would provide an undue burden on both.

One other point I would make is that during the height of COVID, all of Maria Parham Health's hospital beds were never used to capacity. I attribute that to the fact that Vance-Warren counties are small population centers who are projected (recent census) not to have significant population growth in the next 3 to 5 years. Given the population size of the two communities, Maria Parham Health is a strong health care provider in Vance-Warren. I would not like to see this strength diluted with the possible entry of a second or third health care provider in the near term – 3-5 years.

I and our local citizens appreciate your favorable consideration of the petition presented by Maria Parham Health.

Respectfully,



Archie B. Taylor, Jr.
County Commissioner, District 2, Vance County, NC