



April 16, 2020

Mr. Ben Steffen, Executive Director  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

While I recognize it is an extremely turbulent time during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, I am writing to you in support of UM Upper Chesapeake Health's (UM UCH) three projects scheduled to come before the Maryland Health Care Commissioners (MHCC) meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>; and ask that you stress the importance to the Commissioners that they act on the projects as planned.

As Bel Air Town Administrator, I have collaborated with UM UCH leadership on an ongoing basis and found UM UCH's plans have been well thought out and represent a thorough, comprehensive plan to appropriately regionalize health care in Harford County.

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from some elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it important for you to be aware that their opinions and concerns are not shared consistently by a majority of the elected officials here in Harford County nor myself as the Town Administrator of the County Seat. The dramatization that is taking place and framed within the context of this COVID-19 pandemic is unfortunate and inaccurately presented on many different fronts.

Suffice it to say, that despite the political rhetoric taking place, I support UM UCH projects moving forward recognizing that UM Harford Memorial Hospital will not close until the projects are complete on the Aberdeen campus as well as a recognition that the facilities on the Aberdeen campus will not be operational for at least two and a half years, well beyond our current pandemic situation.

I urge you as the Executive Director and the MHCC Commissioners to approve UM UCH's projects as supported by the MHCC Staff's Recommendation Report at the upcoming April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sincerely yours,

L. Jesse Bane  
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