RE: Support for West Virginia Certificate of Need Program

Dear (Governor / Last Name Senator / Delegate),

As County Commissioners (representing X County, Region) we write to express our strong support for maintaining and strengthening the state's Certificate of Need (CON) program. Our counties have directly benefited from this crucial regulatory framework that ensures the strategic and equitable distribution of healthcare services across our communities.

The Certificate of Need program has proven instrumental in:

1. Maintaining the viability of our rural healthcare facilities by preventing unnecessary duplication of services that could destabilize existing providers
2. Ensuring that healthcare investments align with genuine community needs rather than market opportunities alone
3. Supporting the continued operation of essential but lower-margin services that are vital to our residents' well-being
4. Promoting thoughtful healthcare planning that considers the unique challenges faced by our rural and small-town communities

(Local Community Details Here) In our region, we have witnessed how the CON program helps maintain a delicate balance between healthcare access and economic sustainability. Without these protections, we fear that healthcare services would concentrate in our most populous areas, leaving our rural residents with significant barriers to accessing care.

The program has also fostered valuable collaboration between healthcare providers and local governments, allowing us to work together in identifying and addressing genuine community healthcare needs. This collaborative approach has resulted in more efficient use of healthcare resources and better outcomes for our residents.

We strongly encourage the continuation and enhancement of the Certificate of Need program. Its role in protecting rural healthcare access and ensuring thoughtful healthcare development remains as critical today as when the program was first established.

We welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter further and share specific examples of how the CON program has benefited our communities.

Sincerely,

[Name] President, County Commission [County] County, West Virginia

[Additional Commissioner signatures from X counties ]