



September 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Modernization Project – Certificate of Need

On behalf of the Medical Executive Committee of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, I am writing to extend our full support of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's Modernization project.

We represent a medical staff of 132, who have devoted our professional careers to the medical care of our community. We are Surgeons, Pediatricians, Pathologists, Family Practitioners, Orthopedists, Internists, Anesthesiologists and more. We see what a vibrant medical facility means to our patients. They trust us to provide excellent care, and to do so we need to have adequate and up to date facilities.

The Modernization Project that is being planned will ensure that our operating rooms can continue to serve as the location for our patients to have the high quality, community based surgery that they need. These larger, but still modestly sized, operating rooms will allow ongoing medical advancements in surgery to be performed here in Brattleboro, and not become solely the purview of tertiary care centers. Our patients trust that when they decide to have their surgery at BMH, we in fact can deliver that care in the manner that it should be done, not over a rumbling boiler plant and in an OR overcrowded with equipment. They trust that we can control the environment to ensure the best infection rates. They trust us with their lives, and we owe them our very best for this. These planned new ORs assist us in delivering on that promise.

The Modernization Project will also make our surgical and primary care offices more efficient by consolidating them and creating efficiencies in workflow. As you know, we have had several primary care physicians retire or close their practices, and we struggle to provide enough primary care access. Creating an environment that enhances access for our patients is essential. Efficiencies of staffing with a central office location will take away many barriers to the way that we deliver patient care. Additionally, it will be helpful in recruiting new physicians to our community to ensure that our patients continue to have access to primary care in our own community.

For all of these reasons, and for our many patients, we enthusiastically support BMH's Modernization Project, and hope that you will as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Rooney MD
Pediatrician and President of the BMH Medical Staff