



Al Gobeille
Chair, Green Mountain Care Board
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, City Center
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

July 14, 2016

Dear Mr. Gobeille,

You have indicated in our discussions and in public forums that you are very interested in finding innovative leading edge solutions to make health care more affordable in Vermont. After meeting with Amy Cooper from Health First, we are excited about the possibility of our employees having a more affordable choice for outpatient procedures. We strongly support the Green Mountain Surgery Center and encourage the Green Mountain Care Board to approve their request. We are certain the ambulatory care center would be advantageous to Rhino Foods and our employees from a cost and potentially a scheduling perspective.

Over the last 10 years, Rhino has been very proactive in our Wellness initiatives and educating our employees to take personal responsibility not only for their personal health, but also responsible consumers of their health care costs. When consumer driven health plans came around, Rhino was quick to jump on board. We continue to offer a high deductible health plan with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). Rhino Foods now employs 130 people and is a manufacturing company with strong employee principles in Chittenden County. We have no plans to move outside the state, and in fact, have plans to be expanding our facility in the next 12 months. By declaring we have no intention to move, does not relieve your responsibility to approve proposals that will benefit companies that are committed to staying and thriving in Vermont. Rhino's third largest expense is Health Care benefits behind material cost and labor.

We support our local hospitals, but have heard from our employees about how long it takes to get appointments because the UVM Medical Center is so busy. The cost associated with outpatient procedures quickly depletes the employee's HRA funds so that they don't have funds available to use on other medical issues. I ask you to support other innovative and cost effective approaches to help employers and their employees in Vermont, such as this ambulatory surgical center. Please feel free to contact me to gain additional information or ask any questions. I would appreciate your attention to the approval process with a sense of urgency so that the Green Mountain Surgery Center can continue with their plans to help bring affordable and quality care options to Vermont.

Sincerely,


Ted Castle
President

Delicious things, done right.