



Date: September 26, 2016

To: Chairman of Southwest Virginia Health Authority

Greetings Delegate Kilgore,

It's been a while since we last spoke... I hope this correspondence finds you well!

As one of the largest employers in the region... I've concluded that I should submit a Statement of Support regarding the merger of our two regional health systems... Wellmont & Mountain States. As I reviewed numerous fundamental factors of why a merge would be important to our region... the one that stands out to me, is how the equation impacts employer/employee decisions within the labor pool landscape.

As you are aware, Bristol Compressors currently provides ~550 employment opportunities to our region. Each associate having access to multiple employer provided healthcare options. These options are possible because of the current in-network footprint of medical facilities located within the labor pool landscape... which currently incorporates both health systems.

Over the past three years, we've monitored the progress of this merging possibility, we've even hedged our own decisions in the anticipation of a merge. As a business, we understand the necessity that both health systems must remain viable to exist. We also understand, merging the two systems may provide the only avenue for this to be accomplished. This being said... we must understand the volatility that could occur by having a standalone vs. the proposed merged system... capable of continuing healthcare to our employees in multiple locations.

It is noteworthy to mention... healthcare planning is one the largest pieces of our overall Strategic Business Plan. Decisions makers should consider... altering current healthcare facilities landscape "will" create shifts in the labor pool dynamics! Any shift in the labor pool... ultimately impacts our ability to produce and or, even exist.

Please consider my comments as a Statement of Support!

Sincerely:

Rick Nunley