

Philip Deel



September 26, 2016

Comments @swvahealthauthroity.net

Dear Southwest Virginia Health Authority Board,

My name is Philip Deel and I am a lifelong residence of South West VA. I am a current residence of Abingdon, VA. Currently I am employed with BB&T Bank and serve the Abingdon and Tri-Cities areas. I also sit on the Johnson Memorial's foundation board, a board that helps raise money to bring new equipment and services to the local community.

This merger is something that I feel can impact the entire region in a number of positive ways. As a native of Dickenson Co, VA. I have seen first-hand the struggles that smaller communities have in terms of solid health care. Growing up, I witnessed the hospital provide care for the community and I have also witnessed the closure of the hospital.. that meant travel from 30 mins to an hour for the closest hospital.. That time can be crucial in an emergency. Luckily the hospital is open now, only on a reduced staff and service plan, but at least it's something for the community.

This is a true result of the cost of healthcare increase and the lack of support the healthcare providers' receives in the current economic environment. Inside my own industry I have seen it first-hand.. smaller banks not being able to provide the structure and operational layout for the new regulations, therefore mergers are happening with the smaller banks. In the area I truly believe that this merger is needed, so one entity can focus on improved healthcare and services, instead of worrying financially and if they can keep the doors open being two separate companies. There will always be some concern financially but with a teamwork approach, it can be lessened so the focus will be improved healthcare for the region.

I hope you take this into consideration and help the two hospitals become one to provide a brighter day in SWVA and TN.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Deel".

Philip Deel