

Missouri Certificate of Need Program Attn: Alison Dorge P.O. Box 570 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Missouri Certificate of Need Board,

Please accept this letter of opposition to Certificate of Need application presented by Black River Skilled Nursing on May 2, 2025. I am directly affected by this proposal.

Simply put, the CON process and guidelines exist to determine a true existing need for additional licensed beds. The calculations included in this application do not support the established CON criteria. The data from Poplar Bluff facilities demonstrates an excess of available skilled nursing beds, not a deficit.

The five skilled nursing facilities in Butler County sometimes face unique challenges to achieve the average 61.2% occupancy reported for the fourth quarter of 2024. Often these facilities are admitting residents from outside of the Poplar Bluff region due to decreased population in Butler County rather than the data presented by Black River Skilled Nursing for projected population growth.

The economic impact for Butler County may look appealing. However, Mr. Ben Sells stated in his open presentation of the project at Three Rivers College, staffing challenges would be handled by a recruiter based in Canada to bring foreign licensed professionals to the area. How can this be economically beneficial to the residents of Butler County?

I urge you to uphold the standards established by the Certificate of Need Committee on behalf of the residents of Butler County. Please vote in opposition or elect to not vote in this matter.

Johnne Pleffer

Respectfully,

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Kosey Clerk, RM

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Courtney Threoker, LPN

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Lauren Casey

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