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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

December 6, 2018

Mr. Rob Maclsaac, President and CEO  
Hamilton Health Sciences  
King West  
P.O. Box 2000  
Hamilton, ON  
L8N 3Z5

Re: Proposed Restructuring of West Lincoln Memorial Hospital

Dear Mr. Maclsaac,

On behalf of the Township of West Lincoln, we want to express to you just what a profound impact the original proposed closure of vital services being considered for West Lincoln Memorial Hospital would have had on our rural community. We are certainly very pleased to know that with Premier Ford's recent announcements regarding West Lincoln Memorial Hospital and your own published follow-up comments, that this issue of closure of vital hospital services is no longer a concern and therefore no longer a source of worry for our residents.

Since October 23<sup>rd</sup>, it's been clear to us that the issue of removing these services is not in the best interest of our community. Although small in population, West Lincoln is very large geographically and the suggestions being made, if adopted even temporarily, would pose a risk to the thousands of residents residing in West Lincoln and of course the other surrounding municipalities as well. Families with young children and the many older adults, both long-time and those who have more recently moved to our growing municipality depend on the services provided by West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. This decision also will impact on our local Family Health Clinic and the effectiveness of their great team of Medical Professionals, as it jeopardizes the functionality of the hospital and limits the ability of our local doctors to fully serve our growing communities.

West Lincoln is made up of numerous small villages and hamlets. All of these communities already experience a travel distance of approximately 15-20 minutes to access WLMH. With all of the next closest hospitals being at least double and sometimes close to triple the travel distance, it would undoubtedly put our residents at a greater risk if the Hamilton Health Sciences team were to proceed with their plan of closing the OR and Obstetrics. We are well aware that the excellent staff now working in those areas would find jobs elsewhere and would not likely ever return to a re-opened facility in a 2-3 year period!

Furthermore, we wanted to express how pleased we are to hear that our Premier, Minister of Health, Minister of Infrastructure, and our Member of Provincial Parliament have publically reaffirmed their commitment on November 28, 2018, to the people of the communities in which West Lincoln Memorial Hospital serves.

We realize this is not going to be as simple as taking a bandaid off and replacing it with another. There will undoubtedly be more challenging days ahead, which is why we are still encouraging you to continue to work with the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital team to resolve the restructuring plan without having to remove services for any length of time whatsoever.

Where there's a will, there's a way which is why we trust and know that Hamilton Health Sciences will work closely with our hospital professionals to ensure that the staff at WLMH can keep doing what they are trained to do, and keep our rapidly growing communities strong, vibrant, and prosperous. We have the confidence that everything can be done in a collaborative manner where everybody wins.

Kindly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Bylsma', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Dave Bylsma  
On Behalf of the Council for the Township of West Lincoln

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier  
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Infrastructure  
Mr. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West  
Members of Council  
Bev Hendry, CAO  
Mayor Jeff Jordan, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Sandra Easton, Town of Lincoln