

My name is Dean Jazzo and I live and work in Delta Junction. I am a volunteer board member with the Cross Road Health Ministries but I am writing you today as a private citizen. I will attempt to be brief;

SB-8 and the repeal of the Certificate of Need (CON) is important to me as the CON arbitrarily limits my access to health care in my community. I have lived in Delta Junction since 2013 when I bought a business in the area and moved down with my family from Fairbanks. It is my every intention to sell this business some day and retire here in the house and property we have purchased since moving here.

We are currently dependent entirely on an ambulance company to transport anyone critically injured or ill to the closest hospital in Fairbanks. A 90 mile trip by road that on a good day takes at least 90 minutes. On a bad day, much longer. The costs of this service continue to rise and it was at best a short-term solution that has been adopted as long-term policy. It is unsustainable and should be reconsidered immediately. That brings us directly to the CON.

The Interior Hospital Foundation has financed studies that indicate a small hospital, once built, is sustainable at our current levels of population, let alone factoring moderate growth. Add to this that monies exist for infrastructure such as building the structure and you can see that this would be a good, long-term, solution to healthcare in the community and surrounding areas until such can be built and expanded elsewhere.

One of the cornerstones to a viable community is local healthcare (the others being access to education, banking/loans and nutritious foods/grocery store) and it seems that the CON is an obstacle that we can do something about. A community hospital not only provides much needed healthcare within the area but also serves as an excellent base for employment when you consider all the ancillary fields associated with such.

As you weigh this item please keep in mind all the aspects of our communities that are affected by this unwelcome and unnecessary restriction.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Dean Jazzo