May 5, 2026

Ms. Micheala Mitchell
Chief, Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

I am writing on behalf of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners to express our full support for AdventHealth's Certificate of Need (CON) application to develop 92 additional acute care beds at its approved hospital to be developed in Weaverville. The Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring that our residents have access to high-quality, timely, and comprehensive healthcare services, and we believe approval of this application is essential to advancing that goal.

Since 1995, Mission Hospital has operated as the sole hospital provider in Buncombe County. Following its acquisition by HCA in 2019, residents, patients, and community leaders have increasingly voiced concerns regarding access, capacity constraints, and the lack of meaningful choice in hospital-based care. These concerns have been heightened by repeated findings of Immediate Jeopardy associated with the hospital's emergency department, which are deeply alarming and underscore the risks of relying on a single, overextended facility to meet the acute care needs of our community. AdventHealth Weaverville represents a critical and much-needed alternative that strengthens healthcare access and resiliency for Buncombe County.

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners has consistently supported AdventHealth's efforts to expand hospital capacity and improve access in the county. This includes our support for AdventHealth's 2022 CON application to establish a new acute care hospital, as well as our support for the 2024 and 2025 CON applications to add acute care beds as demand, utilization, and patient acuity continue to increase. AdventHealth's approach reflects a responsible, phased, and data-driven strategy to building hospital capacity that aligns with demonstrated community need.

The proposed addition of 92 acute care beds in Weaverville is not merely an incremental expansion. It advances the hospital along a clear tertiary trajectory, positioning AdventHealth to support higher-acuity inpatient services, advanced specialty care, and enhanced emergency and inpatient capabilities that are currently concentrated at a single hospital site in the county. From a countywide perspective, developing additional bed capacity at a second hospital campus strengthens system redundancy, improves surge capacity, and reduces the systemic risk associated with dependence on one emergency department, particularly in light of recent regulatory findings.

Expanding acute care capacity is also essential to improving access for underserved and geographically dispersed populations throughout Buncombe County and Western North Carolina. By fostering competition, this project promotes innovation, improves service quality, and helps ensure that patients receive timely and appropriate care in a more balanced and responsive healthcare system.

By strengthening AdventHealth's ability to serve a growing and diverse population, this initiative supports the development of a more equitable, resilient, and patient-centered healthcare system. It aligns with the

Board of Commissioners' vision for a healthcare network that prioritizes accessibility, quality, and long-term community benefit.

For these reasons, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve AdventHealth's CON application to develop 92 additional acute care beds. Approval of this project will expand access, enhance competition, and better protect the health and safety of Buncombe County residents and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,

Amanda Edwards
Chair, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners