

3/18/2026

Matt Gilman
Oregon Health Authority
Certificate of Need Program
Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement Program
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Certificate of Need Application – Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Mr. Gilman,

On behalf of Bay Area Hospital, I am writing to express our strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Oregon Network, LLC for the proposed Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital.

Oregon continues to face significant challenges in ensuring adequate access to behavioral health services, particularly for youth and adults who require inpatient psychiatric care during periods of acute crisis. Hospitals across the state are experiencing increased demand for behavioral health services, placing considerable strain on emergency departments and existing inpatient resources. Expanding the availability of inpatient psychiatric care is a critical step toward strengthening the behavioral health continuum and ensuring individuals and families can access timely, appropriate treatment within their communities.

Bay Area Hospital currently boards youth and adolescents for days, and often weeks, while they await transfer to inpatient psychiatric facilities in Portland, Oregon, nearly four hours away. Locating Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital in Springfield, Oregon, would significantly reduce travel time to approximately two and a half hours for youth and adults in our region, helping to keep patients closer to their families and support systems. Additionally, the expansion of both adult and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds would reduce prolonged emergency department stays and allow for more timely access to specialized care.

The proposed Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital represents an important opportunity to expand access to inpatient behavioral health services and strengthen the regional system of care. Increasing the availability of specialized psychiatric services will improve access for patients in need of stabilization and treatment while supporting hospitals and community partners working to meet the growing demand for behavioral health care.

For these reasons, Bay Area Hospital fully supports the proposed Timber Springs Behavioral Health Hospital and the associated Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Nichols, CEO

Bay Area Hospital