

**Sullivan County Memorial Hospital  
New Hospital and Rural Health Clinic Construction Project  
Letters of Support - April 2025**

- 1. Sullivan County Commissioners**
- 2. City of Milan**
- 3. North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission**
- 4. Verimore Bank**
- 5. Sullivan County Ambulance District**
- 6. Sullivan County Health Department**
- 7. Milan Family Practice Clinic**
- 8. Dr. Thomas Williams, SCMH Medical Director**
- 9. North Central Missouri Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
- 10. Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company**
- 11. Sullivan County Community Development**
- 12. Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees**



# Sullivan County Commission

109 N. Main St., Milan, Missouri 63556

Chris May, Presiding Commissioner  
Rye Page, Eastern 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner  
Michael Williams, Western 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Rachael Hall, County Clerk  
Heather McCabe, Deputy Clerk  
660-265-3786  
Fax: 660-265-3724

April 22, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the Presiding Commissioner of Sullivan County, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

SCMH is a critical access hospital, the fourth largest employer in the county and serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri. It is home to over 120 employees including physicians and nurse practitioners, clinical and ancillary staff, business office and maintenance personnel, generating over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted services annually.

SCMH has been providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas since 1953. Through the dedicated work of family practice providers and the entire staff of SCMH, services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The hospital strives to supply the needs of the county, to alleviate the need for travel and to maintain local access to specialty services by collaborating with providers to offer specialty services. Presently the hospital has seven specialty providers including obstetrics and gynecology services/women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic testing, physical, occupational, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation services and outpatient treatments are available.

In recent years to keep the doors open, the hospital has been required to complete renovations of over \$1.6 million and will have to invest another \$1.3 million in new electrical before the end of 2027. The Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best course of action to maintain local hospital and clinic services is to construct a new facility. This will prevent wasting additional dollars in repairing the old building and not gaining any more space or needed services. With the upcoming opening of a 2,300-acre drinking water reservoir, we expect considerable economic and population growth in our county and surrounding areas that our current facility is not adequately equipped to handle.

Rural hospitals provide critical benefits to their communities. The hospital leadership, local businesses and the citizens of Sullivan County are working diligently to make sure these services are maintained for our future generations.

The three Sullivan County Commissioners are committed in our support of the efforts of the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board and administrative team to construct a new facility. If there is anything we can do to assist in this endeavor, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Chris May, Presiding Commissioner

CITY OF MILAN  
212 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 247  
MILAN, MO 63556  
P: 660.265.4411  
F: 660.265.3005



April 25, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinic Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

On behalf of the City of Milan, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and clinic facility in Sullivan County, Missouri. This is a project that you are well acquainted with and have supported from the outset. The county has recently demonstrated outstanding support for the badly needed replacement hospital by voting in favor of a ½ cent sales tax for economic development to support the construction.

Since 1953, SCMh is located in the City of Milan and serves as the foundation for the health and well-being of our community. Rural hospitals like SCMh provide access to quality, affordable health care for their patients, support good-paying jobs in our community, and infuse our local economy with spending on goods and services. It operates three rural health clinics and is the fourth largest employer in the county.

As one of the many small rural hospitals in the nation, SCMh, a critical access hospital, provides healthcare access and a safety net to residents of the county and surrounding areas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and has done that for 72 years. There are three full time family practice physicians and three full time family nurse practitioners working in the emergency, acute, skilled and observation areas. Seven consulting providers provide obstetrics and gynecology services, urology, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, orthopedic surgery and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic and therapeutic testing, rehabilitation therapy services and outpatient infusions and treatments are available.

The City of Milan overwhelmingly supports this project. We are committed to supporting SCMh's efforts to build a new facility and are dedicated to ensuring a new facility remains in the City of Milan.

Warm regards,

Crystal Bupp  
City of Milan, City Administrator





## North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission

201 North Market Street • Milan, MO • 63556 • (660) 265-4448

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

On behalf of Harve Rhodes, Chairman of the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri. This is a project with which you are familiar and have supported. As you probably know, on April 8<sup>th</sup> Sullivan Countians voted in favor of a 1/2 cent sales by 60% to support the construction of a desperately needed new hospital. With the local support, they can potentially leverage USDA-RD funding or other programs.

You have been a tremendous supporter of the construction of the Roy Blunt Reservoir and especially the transportation infrastructure to access it. Without your assistance this critical water supply could never be realized. I know firsthand and personally that you understand the critical need for rural hospitals, which have been shutting down at an alarming rate for decades.

SCMH is a critical access hospital, the fourth largest employer in the county and serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri. SCMh has been providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas since 1953. Through the dedicated work of family practice providers and the entire staff of SCMh, services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In recent years, to keep the doors open, the hospital has been required to complete renovations of over \$1.6 million and will have to invest another \$1.3 million in new electrical infrastructure before the end of 2027. The Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best course of action to maintain local hospital and clinic services is to construct a new facility.

Sincerely,

Bradley M. Scott  
General Manager  
North Central Missouri  
Regional Water Commission



[www.verimore.bank](http://www.verimore.bank)

April 24, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the CEO & President of Verimore Bank, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

SCMH, a critical access hospital, has been dedicated to providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas for seventy-two (72) years. Through the dedicated work of family practice physicians, nurse practitioners and the entire staff of SCMH, emergency, acute medical surgical, skilled and observation services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To alleviate some of the need for travel and to maintain local access to specialty services, SCMH collaborates with providers to offer specialty services. Presently the hospital has seven specialty providers including obstetrics and gynecology services/women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic testing, physical, occupational, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation services and outpatient treatments are available.

SCMH serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri as the fourth largest employer of Sullivan County. The hospital and clinics employ over one hundred twenty employees and generate over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted services annually.

In recent years, the hospital has been required to complete renovations to keep the doors of the outdated facility open. The Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best course of action to maintain local hospital and clinic services is to construct a new facility. This prevents wasting dollars on repairing the old building and not gaining any further space or needed services. With the upcoming opening of a 2,300-acre drinking water reservoir, we expect considerable economic and population growth in the county and surrounding areas that the current facility is not adequately equipped to handle.

Rural hospitals provide critical benefits to their communities. The hospital leadership, local businesses and the citizens of Sullivan County are working very hard to make sure these services are maintained for our future generations.

Verimore Bank proudly supports the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board and team in their efforts to build a new facility.

Sincerely,

Kristie Stuewe, CEO & President, Verimore Bank

## Sullivan County Ambulance District



113 South Leewood Drive #1  
Milan, Mo 63556  
Ph# (660)265-3553 Fax# (660)265-3651

April 23, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves

1135 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the Administrator for Sullivan County Ambulance, I wanted to share my support for our local critical access hospital. Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH) is a vital piece of the healthcare system in our small rural county. Our ambulance service which runs an average of 700 emergency calls a year relies heavily on the partnership with SCMH. SCMH provides us a local hospital to transport non critical patients so they may receive quality care with the possibility of being admitted for further treatment all while remaining close to family members. There are also many times where we bring more critical patients there so they can help stabilize the patient for transport to a larger facility. Sullivan County is located approximately 120-130 miles from the nearest level 1 cardiac, trauma or stroke center. The benefit of having SCMH as a healthcare resource in our community is invaluable.

We at Sullivan County Ambulance District are committed in our support of the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board, administration and its staff and their efforts to construct a new facility for our county and its constituents. Should you have any questions for me or if I can be of assistance in anyway, please contact me at the above phone number. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important project.

*Matt*  
Matt Keuhn  
Administrator





## Sullivan County Health Department

101 Hawthorne Drive  
PO Box 129  
Milan, MO 63556  
Phone: (660) 265-4141  
Fax: (660) 265-3891

April 23, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility*

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the Administrator, of Sullivan County Health Department, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

SCMH, a critical access hospital, has been dedicated in providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas for seventy-two (72) years. Through the dedicated work of family practice physicians, nurse practitioners and the entire staff of SCMH, emergency, acute medical surgical, skilled and observation services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To alleviate some of the need for travel and to maintain local access to specialty services, SCMH collaborates with providers to offer specialty services. Presently the hospital has seven specialty providers including obstetrics and gynecology services/women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic testing, physical, occupational, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation services and outpatient treatments are available.

SCMH serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri as the fourth largest employer of Sullivan County. The hospital and clinics employ over one hundred twenty employees and generates over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted services annually.

In recent years, the hospital has been required to complete renovations to keep the doors of the outdated facility open. The Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best course of action to maintain local hospital and clinic services is to construct a new facility. This prevents wasting dollars in repairing the old building and not gaining any further space or needed services. With the upcoming opening of a 2,300-acre drinking water reservoir, we expect considerable economic and population growth in our county and surrounding areas that our current facility is not adequately equipped to handle.

Rural hospitals provide critical benefits to their communities. The hospital leadership, local businesses and the citizens of Sullivan County are working very hard to make sure these services are maintained for our future generations. We are committed to supporting SCMH's efforts to construct a new facility. The benefit of having SCMH as a healthcare resource in our community is invaluable.

Sincerely,

Deborah Taylor  
Sullivan County Health Department Administrator

**MILAN FAMILY PRACTICE CLINIC**  
**CAMPUS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY**  
**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

210 NORTH MARKET STREET

TELEPHONE 660-265-4456

MILAN, MO 63556

FAX 660-265-4627

April 24, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
 1135 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of support for a new hospital and Clinic Facility in  
 Sullivan County

Dear Congressman Graves,

I am a physician at the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital system. I have been practicing here for the last 38 years. I have seen a lot of changes in Milan over the last 4 decades. This is an area of rural Missouri that is very forward thinking. We are one of the few extremely rural areas in Missouri that is growing. This is not by accident. A lot of dedicated hard working individuals have stepped up when needed. Now, not only are we working on a lake for future water resources for us and multiple other counties, but we are also trying to build a new hospital.

A small rural hospital offers access to care for local residents. Statistically, without easy access to local care a large percentage of residents will not travel to seek care. Many are indigent and poor and do not have the resources to travel. Many are not healthy and cannot physically make the trip without a lot of support that they may not have. Having access to healthcare for rural residents through a local hospital improves outcomes.

Please support us with our attempt to build a new hospital.

Sincerely,



Dale Essmyer, DO

**DALE ESSMYER, DO**  
 BOARD CERTIFIED  
 FAMILY PRACTICE

**SHERRI HEDGES,**  
**APRN,FNP,BC**  
 BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY  
 NURSE PRACTITIONER

**ROBERT JACKSON, DO**  
 RHEUMATOLOGIST

**TONIA NERINI, C-NP**  
 RHEUMATOLOGY





April 22, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

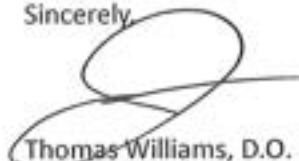
As a primary care and Emergency Department physician, I am writing to express my full support for building a new hospital and rural health clinic facility in Sullivan County.

I have practiced medicine in Sullivan County for over two decades and have witnessed the vital importance the hospital plays in the lives of this community through the inpatient, skilled, emergency, outpatient, specialty and rehabilitation services it provides locally. Our county is 2-4 hours from any tertiary medical center so having a modern facility is critical in saving lives, caring for those patients able to remain local, and assisting in stabilizing and transferring patients when medically necessary.

SCMH is a critical access hospital, the fourth largest employer in the county and serves as a key economic role for north central Missouri. Our building has served us well but has reached the point where it cannot meet the needs of our community now or the future growth expected with the Roy Blunt Reservoir that is currently being built. We do not have the capacity to continue to add needed specialties, perform procedures in our antiquated rooms, or provide the privacy and safety measures that are deserved by our residents.

I am committed to this community and I ask for your support in funding the construction of the hospital and clinic. The planning is well underway as shown by securing the site and by the county approving a sales tax for economic development. If there is anything else I can do, please contact me at the hospital.

Sincerely,



Thomas Williams, D.O.  
SCMH Medical Director  
660-265-4212



www.northcentralelectric.com

# North Central Missouri Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1098 Hwy. E West

660-265-4404

P. O. Box 220

Fax: 660-265-4311

Milan, MO 63556-0220

800-279-2264

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



April 25, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the CEO of North Central MO Electric Cooperative, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital, and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

SCMH is a critical access hospital, the fourth largest employer in the county and serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri. It is home to over 120 employees including physicians and nurse practitioners, clinical and ancillary staff, business office and maintenance personnel, generating over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted services annually.

SCMH has been providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas since 1953. Through the dedicated work of family practice providers and the entire staff of SCMH, services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The hospital strives to supply the needs of the county, to alleviate the need for travel and to maintain local access to specialty services by collaborating with providers to offer specialty services. Presently the hospital has seven specialty providers including obstetrics and gynecology services/women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic testing, physical, occupational, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation services and outpatient treatments are available.

With the linemen of North Central MO Elect working in such a dangerous field, we feel it is imperative for Sullivan County to have and maintain a hospital with the ability to save the lives of not only the members of our community, but the lives of our linemen working with high voltage power lines.

Rural hospitals provide critical benefits to their communities. The hospital leadership, local businesses and the citizens of Sullivan County are working diligently to make sure these services are maintained for our future generations.

Sincerely,

*Loren Haines*

Loren Haines  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Central MO Electric Cooperative





NORTHEAST MISSOURI RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY  
 718 South West St • PO Box 98 • Green City, MO 63545  
 660-874-4111 • [www.nemr.net](http://www.nemr.net)

April 22, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
 1135 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Graves,

As the General Manager of Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (NEMR), I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

SCMH has been providing access to quality healthcare to residents, employed individuals, and visitors in Sullivan County and the surrounding areas since 1953. Through the dedicated work of family practice providers and the entire staff of SCMh, services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The hospital strives to supply the needs of the county, to alleviate the need for travel and to maintain local access to specialty services by collaborating with providers to offer specialty services. Presently the hospital has seven specialty providers including obstetrics and gynecology services/women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, pain management, wound care, and podiatry services. A full range of diagnostic testing, physical, occupational, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation services and outpatient treatments are available.

SCMH, a critical access hospital, is the fourth largest employer in the county and serves as a key economic driver for north central Missouri. It is home to over 120 employees including physicians and nurse practitioners, clinical and ancillary staff, business office and maintenance personnel, generating over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted services annually.

In recent years to keep the doors open, the hospital has been required to complete renovations of over \$1.6 million and will have to invest another \$1.3 million to meet life safety codes for electrical circuitry by the end of 2027. The Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best course of action to maintain local hospital and clinic services is to construct a new facility. This will prevent wasting additional dollars repairing the old building and not gaining any more space or needed services. With the upcoming opening of a 2,300-acre drinking water reservoir, we expect considerable economic and population growth in our county and surrounding areas that our current facility is not adequately equipped to handle.

Rural hospitals provide critical benefits to their residents, businesses, organizations and communities. The leadership of the hospital and the county are working diligently to ensure hospital and clinic services are maintained for our future generations.

NEMR is committed to support the efforts of the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board to construct a new facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Gillespie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michele" and last name "Gillespie" clearly distinguishable.  
 Michele Gillespie, General Manager



## SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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203 N. MARKET STREET  
MILAN, MO 63556  
PHONE: 660-265-5131

April 22, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinic Campus

Dear Congressman Graves,

On behalf of Sullivan County Community Development Board of Directors, I am writing in support of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), and the active plans for building a new hospital and rural health clinic in Milan, Missouri.

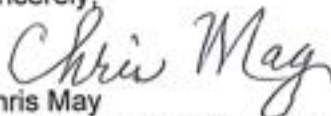
SCMH is the fourth largest employer in Sullivan County and serves as one of the key economic drivers for this rural county. SCMh employs over 120 employees including doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical staff and support staff. SCMh's economic impact in Sullivan County is notable by generating over \$7.4 million in payroll, benefits and contracted staff annually.

SCMH has been the healthcare backbone of the county by providing quality healthcare 24 hours a day, 365 days a year since 1953. SCMh strives to supply the needs of the county, alleviate the need for travel and to maintain local access to healthcare services.

Sullivan County is expecting a considerable economic and population growth with the upcoming opening of a 2,300-acre drinking water reservoir. The current facility is not adequately equipped to handle. Within the last few years to keep the doors open, SCMh was required to complete life safety renovations of over \$1.6 million and will have to invest another \$1.3 million in new electrical infrastructure before the end of 2027. SCMh's Governing Board and County Commissioners agreed the best solution to maintain hospital and clinic services in the county is to construct a new facility. This will prevent SCMh wasting additional money on repairing the 72-year-old building and not gaining any additional space for needed services that the current facility does not have space for.

The Sullivan County Community Development Board of Directors are committed to supporting the efforts of the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board and the administrative team to construct a new facility to make sure healthcare services are maintained for our future generations.

Sincerely,



Chris May  
Sullivan County Community Development President

**SULLIVAN COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL ❖ MHA MEMBER HOSPITAL

**SINCE 1953**630 WEST 3RD STREET  
MILAN, MO 63556  
PHONE: 660-265-4212  
FAX: 660-265-4898

April 23, 2025

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for New Sullivan County Memorial Hospital and Clinics Facility

Dear Congressman Sam Graves,

As The Board of Trustees of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital, we are writing to express our support for the active plans and intent to build a new hospital and rural health clinics in Milan, Missouri.

Our current facility, located in north central Missouri, was built in 1953 and is a very important part of our small rural community. We serve a community of farmers, factory workers, construction workers, schoolteachers and families who need and deserve healthcare close to home.

Our community has long shown resilience and perseverance in maintaining quality healthcare despite the limitations imposed by our current facility. The new hospital and clinics will not only address these limitations but also elevate the standard of healthcare available to our residents. The plan includes advanced medical equipment, modernized patient care areas, and expanded services that are tailored to the specific needs of our rural population.

While Sullivan County Memorial Hospital is a large economic driver in the county, we anticipate that this project will also create new job opportunities for healthcare professionals, support staff, and other local workers, contributing to the economic growth and stability of our region.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your support.

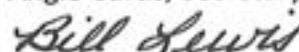
Sincerely,

Sullivan County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees

  
Melba Fordyce, Chairperson

  
James Heaton, Treasurer

Angie Curtis, Secretary

  
Bill Lewis

Gary Drummond

