

Gary W. Hawes, Assistant Attorney

Office of the Attorney General

55 Elm Street

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Hartford, CT 06141-0120

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Dear Attorney Hawes,

I am writing in regards to the proposed sale of ECHN to Prospect Medical Holding

The present building was given to the town by a wealthy family. As such it is a legacy and has a special aura around it to people who live here. The employees live among us. They are our neighbors and friends. We know them, and they know us. This bond is special.

Over the years services have been cut and we keep hearing that the hospital is running in the red. At the same time, we have seen several expansions, and the enormous rise in Administrative compensation. Staffing has been cut, wages have not kept pace with inflation, yet the salaries of administrators and their perks have grown and grown. I know that the hospital has problems, but I believe that many of them are due to poor financial management and a series of awful decisions that have hurt the hospital and the community it serves.

The federal investigation into Prospect's hospitals in California is a real eye opener. The lapses are horrific yet the Prospect representatives seemed unmoved and felt that "we are addressing it" covered the matter. It doesn't. Perhaps being business men rather than medical people, they cannot appreciate the seriousness of these things. I could not trust this kind of operation to deliver my care.

Their presentation stressed the network of doctors for referral. We have that now. They also mentioned the Advisory Board that would recommend any needed changes. Where are the leaders who set policies and follow up on them? Where are the lines of authority? It sounds like chaos. These systems did not work at all in California. They also said that they would retain the present administrators even though these are the very people who ran the hospital into the ground.

I do not believe that community hospitals are dead. We have enough people in our area with enough healthcare needs to support RGH if it were prudently managed. An evaluation of needs would show that.

Yes, RGH has problems, but Prospect is not the answer.

Thank you for letting me have my say.

Sincerely,

*Susan D. Loalbo*

Susan D. Loalbo 5 Janet Lane Vernon, CT 06066