



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Peter Browning, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

February 23, 2023

Elise Cutter, CEO
Island Hospital
1211 24th St.
Anacortes, WA 98221

RE: Island Hospital's Community Project Funding Request

Dear Ms. Cutter,

On behalf of Skagit County, we are writing to endorse Island Hospital's Community Project Funding request for \$2.5 million for its project to expand and support surgical services in the Skagit, Island, and San Juan communities.

Island Hospital is a trusted partner for our region's health care needs and having enhanced and improved surgical services is a key community health priority. Island Hospital currently lacks a surgical robot which is a barrier to recruiting new providers to the region. Surgical robots provide minimally invasive procedures when compared to conventional surgery and result in better outcomes for patients. Surgical robots help decrease complications from invasive procedures, decrease pain for patients, and improve recovery.

For our older population in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, having modern surgical support is a critical need. The Island Hospital surgical services project will fund the purchase and installation of a surgical robot and allow for quality care close to home for thousands a patients per year.

Island Hospital is a pillar of our community here in Skagit County, providing critical care services during a time when hospital staffing and resources are of desperate concern. We recognize that expanding its surgical services will be key to staying competitive for new hires and retaining quality staff. Expanding services will also allow Island Hospital to care for our population safely and more effectively—thus saving time, energy, and resources—all of which are in incredibly short supply.

This project deserves support from the federal government. Island Hospital has been a crucial community resource during the COVID-19 pandemic and operating at peak levels to keep our community safe. This project represents a sustainable, cost-effective community health investment that will create needed care options for Skagit, San Juan, and Island County residents needing surgical support and care. We are pleased to stand with Island Hospital in support of this project and urge Congress to include it for funding.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ron Wesen, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner