

August 23, 2013

Federal Trade Commission Office of the Secretary Room H-113 (Annex D) 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20580

I would highly encourage the Federal Trade Commission oversight committee to consider making a provision in the settlement with the Phoebe Putney Hospital Authority in Albany, Georgia, for this Hospital Authority to **continue paying the appropriate property taxes to Dougherty County that were formerly paid by Palmyra Hospital.** 

The continuation of paying property taxes should be documented and agreed upon in writing as a part of this settlement. Tax payments should be based on the fair market appraised value of the properties involved in the transaction. It should also be for a period that matches either the same 10 year period in the settlement agreement, or the term of the property lease with the Hospital Authority.

Phoebe Putney Hospital has been known for purchasing properties and physician groups, and making them part of their tax exempt structure. These actions have had a negative impact on the collections of property taxes for funding the local government structure.

Thank you for considering this request to be a part of the settlement agreement with the Phoebe Putney Hospital Authority.

**Charles Westbrook**