



**A RESOLUTION OF THE MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS**

**WHEREAS**, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital (BRRH) in Spruce Pine is an essential healthcare provider for Mitchell County and the surrounding rural communities, offering critical services including emergency care, surgery, and outpatient services; and

**WHEREAS**, as a rural county, Mitchell County faces unique challenges in accessing healthcare, with long distances to larger medical centers and limited healthcare options for residents, making BRRH a vital resource for our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the closure of BRRH would have a devastating impact on the health and well-being of our residents, many of whom rely on the hospital for life-saving care and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial struggles faced by rural hospitals are compounded by national policy changes, including potential reductions to Medicaid, premium tax credits, and other critical healthcare programs that support access to care in rural areas;

**WHEREAS**, during and after the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, BRRH was a vital medical hub housing the disaster medical assistance team and emergency pharmacy; thus, saving citizen lives;

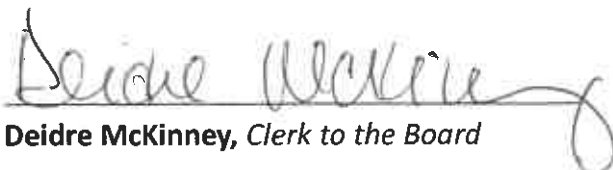
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners:

1. **Support for BRRH:** We strongly support the continued operation of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital and emphasize the vital role it plays in the health of our rural community.
2. **Commitment to Rural Health:** We commit to advocating for policies that help maintain and improve healthcare services in Mitchell County, ensuring our rural residents can access the care they need, close to home.

**ADOPTED** this 19 day of June, 2025, by the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners.

  
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**Jeff Harding, Chair**  
*Mitchell County Board of Commissioners*

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Deidre McKinney, Clerk to the Board**