

**From:** [Bodin, Erik \(VDH\)](#)  
**To:** ["Jennifer.L.Coffman@usps.gov"](mailto:Jennifer.L.Coffman@usps.gov)  
**Subject:** merger of MSHA and Wellmont  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 3:33:19 PM

---

Ms. Coffman,

On behalf of Dr. Levine, the Virginia State Health Commissioner, I'd like to thank you for providing your input about the proposed merger of Wellmont Health Systems and Mountain States Health Alliance. Your input is very valuable to our decision making process. Your email will be added to the record for the review of this request.

If you have additional comments in the future, please feel free to contact me.

erik

[Erik Bodin](#)  
Director, Office of Licensure and Certification  
Virginia Department of Health

(804) 367-2102  
[Erik.Bodin@VDH.Virginia.gov](mailto:Erik.Bodin@VDH.Virginia.gov)

**From:** "Coffman, Jennifer L - Johnson City, TN" <[Jennifer.L.Coffman@usps.gov](mailto:Jennifer.L.Coffman@usps.gov)>  
**Date:** June 28, 2017 at 12:44:43 PM EDT  
**To:** "[marissa.levine@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:marissa.levine@vdh.virginia.gov)" <[marissa.levine@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:marissa.levine@vdh.virginia.gov)>  
**Subject:** merger of MSHA and Wellmont

Hello, I live in Tennessee but I have been reading about the merger between Mountain States and Wellmont.

I know you have more information than I do about the merger but I want to do something to be heard about how much I oppose this merger. I have read that you will be instrumental in the case.

From the FTC's website they state:

When health care markets are competitive, consumers benefit from lower costs, better care and more innovation. The Federal Trade Commission enforces the antitrust laws in health care markets to prevent anticompetitive conduct that would deprive consumers of the benefits of competition. The FTC maintains its expertise in health care markets by doing research and issuing reports on competition issues, which in the past have included empirical studies of generic drug entry, contact lens sales, and mail order pharmacies, and economic analyses of the effects of mergers involving non-profit hospitals.

Both of these hospitals are nonprofit. Both have stated the reason for the merger is because they do not have enough money to remain viable without the merger. We both know this information is false.

Please, listen to the FTC who vehemently disapproves this merger.

When there is a monopoly there could be unforeseen consequences such as the hospital having its own insurance and only accepting that insurance.

I had Blue Cross and in the past they were not accepted at Mountain States. The reason behind this was that Mountain States was charging the highest prices in the nation and Blue Cross was opposing that.

I am sure you are aware, but Mountain States just bought the only non-Wellmont owned hospital in Greeneville TN as well.

Thank you for your time,  
Jennifer Leigh Coffman  
1112 East Market Street  
Johnson City TN 37601  
423-534-2635