



Office of the Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

October 1, 2004

S.M. Oliva
President, Citizens for Voluntary Trade
Co-Chair, Thornton Institute for Health Care and Economics Research
P.O. Box 66
Arlington, VA 22210

Re: *Piedmont Health Alliance, Inc., Docket No. 9314*

Dear Mr. Oliva:

Thank you for your comments on behalf of Citizens for Voluntary Trade (“CVT”) and the Thornton Institute for Health Care and Economics Research (“the Institute”) regarding the proposed consent order accepted by the Federal Trade Commission for public comment in the above-captioned matter. Your letter indicates that CVT and the Institute oppose the proposed settlement. The Commission has reviewed your comments in connection with its decision concerning whether to accord final approval to the proposed consent order, and has also placed your comments on the public record.

After appropriate consideration of your comments, the Commission has determined that the public interest would best be served by issuing the Decision and Order in final form without modification. A copy of the final Decision and Order is enclosed for your information. Relevant materials also are available from the Commission’s website at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

It helps the Commission’s analysis to hear from a variety of sources in its work on antitrust and consumer protection issues, and we appreciate your interest in this matter.

By direction of the Commission, Commissioner Leibowitz not participating.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary