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## **MAYO CLINIC THROWS ITS SUPPORT BEHIND ELK RUN**

By Jeffrey Pieters

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The Elk Run biobusiness park has a big new backer.

Mayo Clinic CEO Dr. Denis Cortese on Tuesday threw Mayo's support behind the 2,300-acre project planned in Pine Island.

"We're just supporting it in any way we can, because we see a real benefit down the road," he said.

Cortese made his remarks at the city-county Government Center, seated with a group of proponents of Elk Run.

Elk Run would serve as, among other things, an incubator for startup biotechnology businesses.

[...]

The business environment, as bad as it appears nationally, is favorable for a Midwestern project like Elk Run, planners said.

"There's such a concentration on the cost of doing business nowadays," said John Pierce, vice president of Tower Investments, the California-based company developing Elk Run.

"We've gotten a lot of interest (from biobusinesses), because, frankly, we may be a lot more competitive from a cost standpoint," he said.