

# TESTOMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 2003

**COMES NOW**, Cherokee County, Kansas Resident, **ROYCE CANTRELL**, with intent to compel the Local Government Committee, to adopt the above mentioned bill.

**Greetings**, to all members of the Committee, I appreciate your time and effort to consider the matter before you. I wish to advise you of my position, as follows:

1. The modification of statute brought forth in said bill is reasonable and necessary to protect communities from undue intrusion by cities without a fair and procedural means of “checks and balances”
2. As in most matters of controversy, there comes to light, a flaw within our laws which impose, allow or otherwise present a method for those with motive to undermine the good faith intent of law. Hence the current issue of debate in Cherokee County, regarding the actions and intent of the City of Galena specify to annex land in the Riverton area in support of a private investor to operate a new landfill on said annexed lands.
3. While the current controversy known to me is in Cherokee County, the mentioned attempt of Island Annexation, sets forth a need to modify law so as to better give guidance to municipalities within the state and to incorporate a fair and balanced mechanism of law responsibly placing oversight of all cities to counties within the state, with-in the authority of affected County Commissions.
4. Now that an example of an overreaching attempt by a city has come to light it would be neglectful of the state, not to take action to improve our laws to address the unfairness, and opportunities for abuse that exist. Mr. Houser has acknowledged and addressed this matter.
5. Without the improvements set forth in said Bill, it is reasonable to expect statewide controversies between cities, unincorporated communities as well and rural residents. Word will spread if Galena is not refrained from using its (un-controlled), municipal authority in its current attempt to annex property

for private company gain. Private companies will seek and use willing governing bodies as vehicles in island annexation opportunities for private gain to the detriment of the tax payers, state wide.

6. Island Annexation presents a wide range of impositions. Devalued properties, forced usage of city utilities, infrastructure improvements and maintenance, environmental impacts not to mention the special and private rights of individual that reside in, adjacent to and near a proposed annexed area.
7. The citizens of our state will remain unprotected and unrepresented from **known**, undue burdens, if this Bill should not pass.
8. Just as each county is limited by the oversight of the state, each city, community and township should also be afforded the limitations and oversight of the county's Governing Body
9. The matter is as simple as chain of command. If one link in the chain is prevented from performing it's intended function. The entire chain is disrupted and fails to perform to its potential.
10. There is no known benefit to the citizens of the state in allowing the affected statue/statues to remain as they exist. In the absence of benefit and with known opportunity for abuse, the law is viewed as flawed and in good faith should be improved as possible by the authority vested in you all to do so.
11. House Bill 2003 as presented by Mr. Houser corrects the realized flaw in our law, in a responsible and reasonable manner. It presents an opportunity for you all to take action that will truly benefit the people represented by you. Therefore, should be adopted.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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