

January 14, 2014

Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

My husband and I are citizens of Cherokee Co. Ks. Who live 7 miles north of a proposed Sub-Title D landfill, which if it comes to pass, will be in existence entirely due to a clever use of Island annexation.

About a year and a half ago, two businessmen Brian Jordan and Roger Hines began secretly looking property they could purchase to become a sanitary landfill. Through a straw buyer they purchased about 160 ac. Located 2 miles north of the school in the unincorporated town of Riverton, Ks. It sits on the corner of Highway 400 and Lostine Road. It was bought from a farmer who was told a lawyer from Joplin wanted to build a house in the county. These businessmen then offered to sell the property to the city of Galena for \$1 in exchange for a 30 year no bid contract to operate the landfill for its projected life of 30 years. The city of Galena would hold the permit and get \$4/ton of waste. Projected tonnage was 187,500 tons/year, although the source of that tonnage was declared proprietary. The county itself generates about 10,000 tons/year. The landfills that currently take our county waste have air space for almost 30 years with room for expansion at both facilities. Research has shown that this whole process was not initiated due to need, as was originally touted.

Annexation and approval of the 30 year contract took place at the July 7, 2014 Galena city council meeting. This was the first the plan was made public. After great public outcry and questions regarding KOMA, the actions were rescinded July 30, 2014 and a moratorium declared until January 1, 2015. We are now at the end of that moratorium and the process of passage begins again.

This action has torn our small communities and county apart. The mayor of Galena says they need the money and the landfill will bring growth. The citizens of Riverton and the county say their voice and vote has been stolen from them and their way of life violated by Galena and their annexation. Anything that can cause this turmoil and discontent cannot be a good law. The unintended consequences have come to life loud and clear in Cherokee Co. The last six months have literally been a nightmare.

We have done much research about every aspect of the proposed landfill which I will not share, as this bill is not about landfills. It is about protecting unsuspecting citizens of a county from what we would call legal invasion aka island annexation. In this case, that invasion will drastically change a towns' great way of life and residents will greet each day with the view of a large landfill. Galena, about five miles away, will be spared the view but not the profit.

My husband and I are not in this fight because this is in our backyard because it is not. We are here because the actions taken were manipulative and self-serving, and although legal were just plain wrong. It is our hope that when we speak of this again the legal label will be absent regarding island annexation for counties under the population of 25,000 and actions like this will no longer be possible in Cherokee Co. Ks.

Thank you for your attention. We would appreciate your vote in favor of HB 2003.

Sincerely,

Gary and Sue Drennan

9255 S. E. Wyandotte Rd.

Galena, Ks. 66739

Home: 620-389-2347

Cell: 417-483-0425

