

To the Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

>

> I am writing to let you know that I am in favor of HB2003 and to share a few of the reasons why.

>

> As a resident of Cherokee County, I am currently witnessing a distressing situation involving Island Annexation. The small town of Galena, with the guidance and financial assistance of businessmen from Missouri, has used this process to reach far outside their limits to secure property for a landfill. I feel that the planning of such a controversial venture should have involved our county commissioners since a landfill will affect the whole county, not just one city. We elect county commissioners to attend to county business, to represent us and to make important decisions to better our whole county. We don't expect county officials to be involved in city business, but likewise a city should not be involved with county business. Allowing any town or city to make decisions that impact residents of adjacent communities should not be allowed.

>

> As lifetime rural property owners, my family and I have always felt secure about the consistent value of our properties. Passing HB2003 would assure property owners that neighboring cities would not be able to annex nearby property for purposes that may negatively affect their value. As you know, if Galena is allowed to construct a landfill, any property within several miles will be greatly devalued. In addition, the lives of those living in that area will be forever changed.

>

> Lastly, I am very concerned about the environmental issues connected to the property mentioned, which has always been considered premium farm and grazing land, and is located less than 1 mile from Spring River- the water source for many people from southeast Kansas and continuing south to Grand Lake. The Bible commands us to be good stewards of our land, to protect our natural resources and wildlife. I take that very seriously. Far too often, we see in hindsight the great destruction we have caused to our land in the name of progress or prosperity. The decision of planning and placement of a landfill when needed, with so many responsibilities and liabilities, should be left to the county commissioners who I know will consider input from the whole county and do what is best for all.

>

> In closing, I would ask that you pass HB2003 to protect people, the environment and wildlife, and the value of our property. Also, please keep in mind the ongoing situation here in southeast Kansas and do all within your power to help us maintain control of our community and way of life.

>

> I sincerely thank you for your time and for continuing to represent us with integrity.

>

> Sincerely,

> Patricia Street

> 3108 SE Quaker Road

> Columbus, Kansas 66725

> 620-875-1321