

To the Chairman & members of the Local Government Committee:

I am a resident & registered voter in Cherokee County, Kansas. It is my understanding the City of Galena is wanting to Island Annex 140 acres, more or less of property at the N.E. corner of highway 400/69A & S.E. Lostine Rd. This property is over 3 miles from their city limits as the crow flies & 5 miles more or less by the highway. Island annexing is usually rural property that is productive farm ground or good pasture ground. It has already been cleared so whoever buys it is not out that expense.

People have worked hard & for a long time for the American dream of owning property to have someone buy near them to put in a landfill which can destroy that dream. It is a well-known fact, property values decrease even at the mere mention of a landfill, case in point, the Wheatland Landfill on highway 7 north of Columbus. I have friends that live across the highway from it & have tried for years to sell but haven't found a buyer yet and Wheatland has been closed for several years.

If the proposed landfill goes in, by Galena or anyone, not only will it affect property values, it will more than likely affect people's health due to dust, rodents and God only knows what else that is put in the landfill's these days. There is a risk to the environment to area creeks, streams, ponds & Spring River nearby. I delivered mail in that area in 1993 when we had a big flood. The water backed up from Spring River and the nearby creeks to the railroad tracks next to this proposed landfill sight. That is all low lying area to the east of the tracks and is probably considered in a the flood plain. Heavy truck traffic will cause more wear & tear on the county roads & state highways causing more expenses for maintenance. Who is going to have to pay for that, us taxpayers that is who.

Island annexing does not give the people surrounding it a voice in the matter. We cannot continue to lose more farm ground or pasture ground. I hope you all take this into consideration when you vote on HB2003.

I appreciate you taking time to read my letter, thank you.

Sincerely,
Verna M. Cossairt

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