

January 20, 2015

**HB 2003 Testimony
H Local Government Committee**

My name is Richard Mallatt. I live in Spring Valley Township in Cherokee County, Kansas. I do believe the current annexation statutes are flawed and we do need some changes made to them !!

I do consider the controversy which brought us here today to be a county wide issue and not just something between two communities. To put a few things in perspective, the land mass of Cherokee County, Kansas is over 1000 square miles. Galena, Kansas which started this controversy, is approximately 5 square miles, so you're looking at a .005 % land mass with approximately 10 % of the county population going out and making a decision for every person in Cherokee County and trying to circumvent any involvement or input by the County Commissioners.

Galena done this in a shroud of secrecy and they would have succeeded in July 2014 with what they wanted to do, if they had not violated the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA). It is not right that a city can go anywhere in a county and inflict their wishes and desires on an unsuspecting public when it is not in the best interest of the public good.

I do firmly believe this committee needs to take a very strong look at the island annexation statute and enact some checks and balances so a minority cannot dominate the majority.

Thank you,

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