

To the Chairman and members of the Local Government Committee,

I am contacting you to demonstrate my support for Representative Mike Houser's proposed amendment to the Island Annexation law.

Until you can understand how the current proposed landfill could impact our future, I would like to introduce you to Cherokee County, KS. Cherokee County is currently ranked among the highest ranked counties in Kansas in regards to poverty and unemployment. The county is situated in a rural area, causing many people to work in the small towns that they live. One of the things that Cherokee County is blessed with is the tourism associated with Route 66 travel.

Tourism supports the economic success to our gas stations, lodging, and restaurants. My concern is pretty clear at this point. The source of tourism and survival for this rural county will be drastically impacted with a landfill less than a mile from Route 66.

Personally, a vacation tour through Cherokee County, Kansas will not be necessary. If the landfill is not stopped, I will live less than 3 miles from the landfill. I will also work and my child will go to daycare within the same 2-3 miles.

An eye sore is the least of my concerns at this point. As I rock my one year old to sleep, I fear how this will impact her in the coming years. The immediate fears that come to mind include water/soil contamination, air contamination, and the continued decline of the economic status of our county.

I am not saying landfills shouldn't exist. I understand if there is a need, then discussion needs to take place amongst government officials and individuals trained in the field to determine how it should be pursued. With operating landfills in the immediate area, is there a need? Is the need high enough to justify the economic and health risks that will occur?

I know each of you pursued your current position because of your love for your county and state. Please help me in supporting Michael Houser and his dedication to preserve the future of Cherokee County, Kansas.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
Christina Holmes

<http://kac.org/county-fact-sheets/>