

Dear Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

Over the coming days, you are going to hear many points of view of the ongoing “situation” in Cherokee County since July 7, 2014, with varying degrees of it being true. Our situation is truly stranger than fiction.

At the heart of the matter is the current statute regarding Annexation by Municipalities, in particular, “island annexation”.

In our particular situation, a loophole in the current statutes will allow a municipality to island annex 160 acres of farm land located over five (5) miles from its borders. Additionally, the city will be acquiring this land for \$1 from the Mayor’s business partner for the purpose of operating an unwarranted landfill in our area.

I think we all can agree that this was not the intent of Island Annexation.

This is blatant overreach by a municipality with those most affected by their overreach having no voice in the matter.

I do believe municipal annexation has its purpose. It is a resourceful tool for those citizens and cities who wish to urbanize their communities and provide necessary infrastructure to such areas. However, there must be a path to protecting farm lands, unincorporated areas, and small communities such as those in Cherokee County.

I hope you will consider looking further at our situation and supporting HB2003, as introduced by Representative Mike Houser.

Best,

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