

January 15, 2015

Greetings Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

I would first like to thank you for taking the time to here from those of us who are opposed to the Island Annexation that the city of Galena is trying to impose upon residents of our small rural community in Riverton, Ks. I grew up in Galena and lived there until I married my wife of 31 years. We live just north of the projected annexation and landfill. My wife has lived in Riverton for 49 years. We made our home on part of her family's homestead. We have raised our 2 sons in this place and now have 7 grandchildren that live in the same area with their parents. It grieves me deeply to think that at any point in time a city could come in and take rural land and turn it into their city limits simply because they purchased the land. And in this case the land was deeded over to them for \$1.00 even though the previous owner paid market price or some say over market price for it.

I would like to say that while I'm firmly against any landfill being brought into my neighborhood and community I'm also against a city having the right to take over land without the local County government knowing anything about it. I feel that we the people should have a chance to vote on such issues and not just have it done to us. We do live in a nation where many have fought and died for our rights so that we could have a voice and be heard and have a fair chance to fight and not be blindsided to any one governing body.

I would like to say that if the annexation were to go through that I can see it being death to the Riverton community. The landfill that would come in due to the annexation would cause property value to drop and the likely hood of someone being able to sell a house would be pretty slim. This school was home to my wife, her family on both mother and father side, our children and now our grandchildren. Not only is it where my wife went to school she has worked there for over 20 years. If all of the proposed business would come into effect it would surely mean that at some point this school would close due to people not moving into the community to take the place of those who have went on to be with their Savior. This would mean many families would be without jobs. Which is sad to say that Galena is wanting a landfill to bring jobs into their sleepy little town to save it but at what cost is it to others? We have always been a town that was happy to help out our Galena or Baxter Springs neighbors whenever they had a need. It is really heartbreaking to see these two small towns divided on an issue that there really seems to be no need for at all.

It is my hope that you will take into great consideration the bill HB2003 that Mr. Houser has taken the time to write after hearing the voice of so many concerned Cherokee County residents. The thought of this happening to another small town is sickening to me.

Thank you for your time and God bless,
Russ and Michelle Ferguson
Russ Ferguson

Nock 'em Dead Taxidermy/Anchor Point Indoor Archery Range

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Isaiah 54:17

