

Subject: HB2003

Sir or Madam Representative,

I have lived in Riverton or 25 years of my younger and adult life. I grew up in Riverton, graduated from RHS, then moved when I went away for college. After living in Lenexa for about 7 years, I lived briefly in Webb City, MO to be closer to work. I finally decided to build a house on the land I grew up on, and where I thought I would live out the rest of my life. If Galena is allowed to annex this island of nothing but Riverton households, I might be forced to move. I don't want to, I love this area and how the people of Riverton and some of the other communities are coming together to fight this injustice...be it through a loop-hole in annexing laws or not. Representative Mike Houser has a bill (HB2003) coming forth to be voted on that would eliminate the ability of a rogue city to make land grabs for only that city's benefit without the approval of the county commissioners. That is the biggest injustice to me in this situation, that the people that lived, literally, next door to the proposed annex and landfill have absolutely no representation in this transaction. Galena is not connected to this land in any way and even has to cross a river over county roads to get there. One county commissioner has gone on record as saying he was only informed by the Galena City Council a couple of days prior to the public announcement and said he pretty much had no say in what was going to transpire.

As an electrical engineer with many aviation (in Wichita), defense and government jobs, even I understand the importance of farmland. One of the arguments for the proposed landfill through the island annexation is "do something with the land for a change". The land in question has been farmland to a local family for many decades. Farmland is just as important as any other

type of industry, perhaps more so. Farmland produces crops, which in turn makes food. We can live without many technologies of today, but we will never live without food and crops.

Sincerely,
Tim Pennock
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