

To: Senate Committee on Local Government, Sen. Dennis Pyle, Chairman

From: Kyle Rennie, Cherokee County Farm Bureau & Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 17, 2015

Re: **HB 2003** – Cities; relating to annexation

Chairman Pyle and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HB 2003. I am the Chairman of the Board for the Cherokee County Farm Bureau. Cherokee County Farm Bureau is one of the 105 County Farm Bureaus in Kansas that make up the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

This bill gives the people of a county a voice in a matter that impacts both the city and the county. The county commissioners, whom I can vote for or against, should be able to speak on behalf of their constituents in these situations. Currently, with this type of island annexation, the county has no voice in the process.

Island annexation gives too much power to cities who want to grab land from other communities without the consent of the voters who live there. Island annexation sets a dangerous precedent in this state and infringes on the rights of county residents for the gain of a city government. Under current law, no county property in our state is safe from island annexation of this type. County residents and their elected officials should have a say in this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'd be glad to take questions at the appropriate time.