

Dear Representative Bergquist and members of the Local Government Committee

I am writing to this committee to please restore representation to rural people. This was put to test in our local community last year in 2024. But, not the first time and not just Osawatomie! As new comprehension plans came out for Osawatomie KS, many noticed that there was a new annexation map and it included many miles outside of town. Upon going to the workshops that were held I asked many questions. When I asked the city manager how they can plan for a potential annexation without the vote of the rural community he stated that rural folks don't have a say in what town people do. **Rural folks can't have a say about annexation of our land nor can we sit on the city council boards.**

Later on, the local newspaper (Miami County Republic) came out with an interview of the city manager stating, "We did not need to have their consent, but their consent makes the annexation process go much quicker and smoother since consent annexation require no notification or public hearings". The land they annexed was annexed off land that the city had already annexed along the highway. They had also bought land sometime ago across the road. As a rural citizen I went to the local commissioners' meeting and spoke on this issue. Rural folks don't have a say or vote with what is happening to our land.

We choose to live rurally for a reason and expect to have the same rights as everyone else. Several farms in Miami County have been in the family for generations. Long before annexation and comprehensive plans were even a thing.

Below is a link to the annexation map for Osawatomie KS

<https://indi8ca631e0a994.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=9b059aa143c64f6692be76bf8ddad0b7>

Metropolitan area Planning and Zoning is a loophole that allows annexation without the rural voters' permission.

Sincerely,

Courtney Crawford

Miami County Kansas