



CENTERED AROUND COMMUNITY

CITY OF CLAY CENTER
427 COURT STREET, P.O. BOX 117
CLAY CENTER, KANSAS 67432-0117

1-27-2025

Re: 3-Mile Zone Elimination, SB 37/HB 2025

House and Senate Local Government Committees:

The City of Clay Center would like to express its opposition to both SB 37 and HB 2025 which would eliminate the 3-mile extraterritorial planning and zoning authority for cities. These bills would adversely impact the City Comprehensive Plan Land Use as evidenced in the following excerpts:

The City also has a considerable amount of undeveloped land currently inside the corporate boundary. After the most recent annexation, 363.5 acres of land, or 18.8 percent of the total incorporated area was recorded as undeveloped. The undeveloped land inside the corporate boundary presents a decided advantage to the City as development can be guided toward these undeveloped areas before the City considers annexing more property into the community. Additionally, development practices can be guided toward identified quality standards through application of existing municipal land use controls and building codes. This represents the best assurance that a quality living environment can be preserved and extended as the City continues to grow in the years ahead.

Future expansion of urban uses in the rural area closely adjacent to the City should be carefully monitored to prevent a buildup of incompatible uses which will be difficult to manage at a later time. In this respect, such uses already located near the corporate boundary should be evaluated for annexation into the City at some future point. This is particularly true where there may be developed areas adjacent to the municipality which are receiving municipal services and which should be brought within to assure proper land use controls and maintenance of quality environmental conditions. Of particular concern are police and fire protection, proper utility services and building standards. These and other aspects of planning for future development will be examined in greater detail in subsequent elements of the plan.

SB 37 and HB 2025 would prevent the City from properly forecasting, developing, planning and expanding. A City should continue to have the authority to research and implement any annexations that affect the local economy.

Local control is crucial to the vitality of rural communities, and we would strongly urge the committees to re-consider these bills. A change of this magnitude could have significant local economic consequences which are not accounted for in either bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JR Thatcher".

James R. Thatcher
Mayor