



# City of Arkansas City, Kansas

## Neighborhood Services Division

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January 24, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2025: Repealing the three-mile extraterritorial planning and zoning authority for cities.

Presented to the House Committee on Local Government

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As the Principal Planner of the City of Arkansas City I wish to write in opposition to HB 2025 which would repeal the three-mile extraterritorial planning and zoning authority for cities.

This bill is an overhaul of more than 60 years of statutes used by cities and counties to make planning decisions and investments. Changing the law comes with significant consequences, none of which are accounted for in this bill. The City of Arkansas City is a member of the League of Municipalities which requests an interim committee be created to further examine the issue. The City of Arkansas City agrees that this is a good compromise to more closely study the issues regarding extraterritorial jurisdiction of cities.

A change of this magnitude needs significant study before consideration. For example, we are concerned about the impact to:

- Municipal utility agreements and arrangements;
- Interlocal agreements;
- Projects currently bonded or in planning stages;
- State and federal regulatory practices, particularly utility and telecommunications;
- Metropolitan or regional planning commissions; and
- Joint city and county infrastructure agreements within the three-mile zone.

Subdivision regulation is important for controlling land use. This includes everything from street location to parks to flood protection. State law regulates the ability of cities and counties to enact these regulations within the three-mile boundary, also known as ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction).

The ETJ also exists to protect counties from unfettered expansion of a city's boundaries. The rules and regulations in place within this zone provide agreement and cooperation between cities and counties. It properly discourages cities from just annexing these areas.

County commissioners have the ability to stop acts by a city within the three-mile zone. The current system is collaborative and gives counties authority and input over the process. Every citizen in a county who lives in an ETJ has representation through their county commissioners, who have direct oversight into the processes and actions taken by cities in the zone.

The City of Arkansas City also uses the ETJ process. We have not extended our zoning regulations into the ETJ but do have subdivision regulations within a growth area. We decided in our Comprehensive Plan not to focus on the entire 3 Mile area but instead on a specific growth area that is spelled out in our Plan. Having the ability to have a say in how these areas near our city are developing is very important to the continuing development of our City without having to annex the areas and adding our full Municipal Code onto those lands. The ETJ serves its purpose well and we would ask that you vote against advancing HB 2025 any further and consider our alternate proposal of an interim committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Josh White, AICP  
Principal Planner  
City of Arkansas City  
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