

Debra Heideman

From: Kyle Fiedler <KFiedler@valleycenterks.gov>
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To: Transparency Ethics; House Local Govt
Subject: ETJ testimony

On behalf of the City of Valley Center, I am submitting testimony to keep the extraterritorial jurisdiction in place.

Valley Center is a rapidly growing community in the Wichita metro area. Because of our rapid growth, we feel that it is important to maintain the option to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Sedgwick County has been a great partner working with our community on any development within our ETJ.

Most specifically, we support keeping ETJ as we grow and annex more land into the City Limits. It is important that our Subdivision Regulations are followed so that development in the County is conducive to its future interactions with the City. 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.

The EJT also exists to protect counties from unrestrained 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. If there are counties not actively engaged in the process, that needs addressed with them. 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.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on this item.

Thank you,

Kyle Fiedler



Kyle Fiedler

Community Development Director

Phone: 316-755-7320

Fax: 316-755-7324

Email: kfiedler@valleycenterks.org

City of Valley Center
545 W. Clay
P.O. Box 188
Valley Center, KS 67147

www.valleycenterks.org

