

To the Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

I understand the potential need for island annexation in certain circumstances. However, in the proposed island annexation in Cherokee County for the City of Galena to be used as a landfill, it doesn't seem right that the seven member council of the city of Galena should be making the decisions for the community of Riverton, which is an unincorporated town, approximately three miles to the west. The site of the proposed annexation is four miles from the Galena city limits, two miles from a school that has approximately 1,000 people in it, primarily children, every weekday. The loop-hole in the current bill that allows a city to annex land if they own the property was how this bill was brought about. The site of the proposed island annexation was purchased through a straw-buyer, then offered to the city for \$1.00 and other considerations for an exclusive contract to operate a Municipal Waste Landfill, for 30 years. There is also a 30-year post closure on all landfills. HB2003 that was written by Representative Houser will stop this type of annexation because it will require an unanimous vote of the commissioners on property that is not adjoining the city limits, which is how something of this magnitude should have been done in the first place. Since the property in question is in the county and not in any city limits, the people that live near there are represented by the county commissioners, who currently have no say in this process. As a family that lives close to this proposed island annexation site in Riverton, we will pay all of the high costs for this choice with none of the benefits, or representation because we are not Galena citizens. We as a family and a community are struggling to understand how this is fair to us, our children or our grandchildren. Please consider our family in your decision making process.

Thank you,
Wendy Garner

Wendy Garner
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