

January 14, 2015
RE: HB 2003- Island Annexation

Dear Chairman, Members of the Committee and Representative Houser,

I would like to applaud Rep. Mike Houser for his work in tackling the issue of island annexation and trying to correct a situation that is a gross interpretation and miscarriage of a law. I could bore you and the other committee members with a long diatribe of our nation's history and what we have fought against, but I will cut it short to a single phrase that I believe you and many others will understand, "taxation without representation". I believe that you have taken up the flag to correct this wrong that is trying to be forced on our community by a local municipality. While our issue is not currently taxation, it unarguably is a government without representation.

In no way has anyone within the community in which I reside cast a single ballot for an elected position within the city of Galena. Yet, they are attempting to use a Kansas statute in a manner which surely could not have been intended, to make a profit for an individual and specific city. I find it difficult to believe that elected individuals for the state of Kansas, in which I have lived my entire life and proudly voted in every election since I have come of age, would pass a law with the intention of allowing a municipality to obtain land and create profit for the SOLE purpose of bettering life for their individual citizens PERIOD. Mr. Houser, I commend you and encourage the others who read this to take a stand for our community, county, and other rural communities that have built this state. In this day and time government rolls along, receives criticism on many levels, and appears unemotional and removed from the common man. This is the opportunity before this committee; to hear, to listen and to have the courage to make a difference for our rural community and maybe your community next. If the city of Galena continues on their current path they will need to raise more revenue and they may seek to island annex property from your district. I say this tongue in cheek obviously but, who would have thought a city would be allowed to take property from a neighboring community that is not connected to their city limit. I will not mention that the purpose would be for a sanitary landfill, a trash dump if you will, that was purchased by an individual and sold to the city for \$1 while his company was granted a lifetime perpetual contract to run the facility. Now we know that action was rescinded but make no mistake, if you listen to the radio and check the propaganda site that the public relations company has released, the mayor and the city is set to take this action once again. Chances are you have probably been contacted by a lobbyist paid by the city as well. Seems like an awful lot of trouble to go to in attempting to sway public opinion and legislators, in my opinion. Forgive me as I refocus on the task at hand, in which YOU, can make a difference and protect rural Kansans.

To the members of this committee, Mr Houser has taken a stand in bringing this bill to you and for your discussion. As I take notice of your districts I note that many of you are from urban areas and you may dismiss this as not being a major issue. Rural Kansas is a vast amount of area, the majority of area in regards to territory in Kansas but a likely minority of the population. In an age of greater and greater significance being placed on the metropolitan I urge you to take a stand and step up for the citizens who do the grunt work of making our state what it is. Contrary to some comments made in relation to my community, I do work, I do pay taxes, I do serve others, I do pull my weight and I CHOOSE to live in the country. THAT ABSOLUTELY DOES NOT MAKE ME A FREELOADER LIVING OFF OF THE COUNTY! Individuals choose to live in the city and individuals choose to live in the country, that's why we are America. So if people in position of power want to make that argument, YOU, have an opportunity before you to make US count and stand up for OUR rights. We have tied ourselves to

deficit spending and spending beyond our means, to not support this further promotes local government to spend and figure out how to support it after the fact. This time, it's at the expense of another community. Are you kidding me, if this is right then, I think as citizens of Kansas we need to seriously reevaluate where we are heading and our direction. I to, am taking a stand. I am a Kansan, I am a voter, and I do matter. We elect officials to speak for us (although that does not seem to be the case as mentioned above with the Galena City Council), to protect us, and to do what is best for ALL of us. You have this chance before you, to display some backbone and say NO, if for no other reason because it is simply the right thing to do. As government, protect the common man and pass this measure, fight for its passage into law, and celebrate with us the fact that we still have a government that is for the people!!!

Sincerely,

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