

Dear Committee Member,

I support Representative Houser's bill against Island Annexation. This action by Galena has tore our county apart because of it being done in secret and without any input from Galena, Riverton or Cherokee county.

This action took the vote and voice away from the people that are being effected. It is not only forcing something we do not want in our town or county and there has been no proof of the need for what this land will be used for. Property values around the area will decrease and those in close proximity are being forced to sale their land so they will not have a landfill in there front or back yards and so they will not lose money at a later date and not be able to sale from the actions this island annexation intended use.

Health issues are a very real problem with the intended use of the annexation also and there are many children and elderly within a three mile radius of the annexation that will be affected. The road is already supposed to be turned over to the county once the new highway goes through and the wear and tear on roads will mean more maintenance for the state and then the county road department. Both the state and the county highway departments have had to cut their budgets so much because there is not enough funding to maintain the roads they have. My husband works for the county highway department and i know they cannot do a lot of the maintenance needed on our roads because of money shortages. How is adding the heavy traffic to those roads going to be paid for?

This annexation is only to benefit Galena but the rest of us that has not had a voice in the decisions and several generations down the roads will be paying for this problem that is not needed. Galena already does not have the funds to pay their employees and had to raise taxes to pay for the problems they already have.

Quality of life is another thing that has been taken away from us. We (Riverton and rural Cherokee County) live in the rural area because we want to be rural not run by a city miles away. Please consider what this annexation has started: a divided county, divided city, divide county commissioners, divided churches, friends and even families. This has to be stopped and the voice of our community be heard and asked to at least be a part of those kind of measures. Please vote for this bill to prevent Island Annexation!!!!

Respectfully

Michelle (Shelly) Barnett

Riverton, Kansas

Sbarnett@usd404.org