



CITY OF GARDEN PLAIN

Mayor: Kevin Hammond
Council Members:
Jenny Zoglman, Alan Youngers,
Pam Weber, Tracy Thul, Tyler Bugner

Date: February 12, 2020

To House Local Government Committee

Re: HB 2580 – Written Opposition Testimony

Thank you, Chairman, for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the House Local Government Committee in Opposition of HB 2580.

This house bill would be detrimental to many towns and cities. It would impede growth. And the ability to expand services to rural residents that need them. We are currently considering annexation because over 40 years we have allowed connections to our utilities outside of our city limits. However, those people are not paying for the maintenance of the system, so they need to be annexed.

We have those that want fire hydrants to reduce homeowner's insurance as well as police protection that is closer than what the county offers. We are locked into voluntary annexation which if we do not have boundary that inhibits that option. Nor will be able to bring in developers for growth to our town if areas cannot be annexed that are close to city limits. When you buy property close to city limits it's a known possibility you could be annexed at some point.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Kopper

Deputy City Clerk

Court

Zoning

Planning