

I'm providing written testimony in favor of HB 2150, "repealing the zoning and planning authority for cities in the three-mile area extending from the city boundaries." I believe that the core function of government is to protect our liberties and Constitutional rights. In our state, people who live within three miles of a city have had to deal with city zoning laws. That's despite the fact that they don't have the same rights as those who live within the cities. They don't have the right to vote on city elections such as for city council, mayor, etc. They also don't have the right to run for any of these offices. In most instances, they also don't have the same services provided to them that those in the cities do, such as police and fire.

I believe that it's unfair that those who live within three miles of a city have to deal with city zoning laws when they don't have the other rights and privileges that those who actually live within the cities have. It's essentially regulation without representation. Cities engage in zoning regulations which often times infringe on private property rights, but yet those who live in the country within the three mile radius have no voice within city politics to protest the zoning ordinances. If they believe that the zoning ordinances are being enforced too strictly, they aren't allowed to run for a city office to make this argument.

The current policy is an infringement on the liberties and private property rights of those who live within the three mile radius of the cities. This bill is simply a commonsense measure to correct that problem, and I'm proud to support it.

*Brett Fairchild*