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SB 124

Imposing restrictions on unilateral annexations

Proponent – Oral In-Person

February 3rd, 2026

Madam Chair Bowers and Esteemed Committee Members,

I submit proponent testimony for SB 124, a bill for which I am the sponsor. Last year, this committee held an informational hearing. In this hearing, it was revealed gaps exist in current law related to annexation. This is particularly true for unilateral annexation, as well as the use of narrow corridor annexations.

Senate District 37 is one the fastest growing senate districts in Kansas and includes a robust industrial and logistics economy. The communities of Gardner and Edgerton are growing at 2.5% every year, with much of the land in Johnson Couty available for annexation and expansion being in that region. Without a doubt, growth and opportunity are present in the district. Growth comes with many blessings, but it also comes with many challenges.

One such challenge is the balance of municipal growth with the rights of rural citizens. In recent years, aggressive and questionable annexation practices have plagued the district. These battles have caused anger, resentment, and a feud between the rural property owners and the municipalities.

SB 124 seeks to address some of the key factors with annexation that cause concern for the property rights of individuals, as well as some of the questionable tactics used by municipalities to annex land. For instance, several municipalities in Kansas have used

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the ambiguous definition of “narrow corridor” to connect arguably non-contiguous pieces of land. This bill would eliminate the practice and ensure cities must utilize reasonable and ethical means to annex land into the city.

We worked diligently on compromise amendments, wherever possible, with the opponents. These amendments will be provided to the chair for consideration by the committee, should SB 124 be worked.

It is important to note that the proponents of this bill still seek standing when it comes to challenging the legality of narrow corridor annexations. This will be one of the primary sticking points between opponents and proponents. However, if the only parties with standing to challenge a narrow corridor annexation include the city performing the annexation and the land owners for the narrow corridor being annexed through consent, then who actually has standing to change the legality of such annexation?

Regards,

Doug Shane

Kansas Senator, District 37