SB124 - Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics

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As a Geary County property owner since 2007, we have seen how municipalities assume that in order to stay viable and prosperous they must rely on the continued growth through annexation of the land outside of their jurisdiction. The problem with this assumption is that these municipalities are poorly managed in the first place. They do not need our property, they need accountability to the citizens they work for. SB124 would at least require that greedy corporations and municipalities could not annex slivers of land without knowledge and approval.

Recently, a similar situation happened in Geary Co. to the one described in previous constituent letters in Johnson Co. The city wanted to make the borders of the city more “straight” and so they were just going to redraw the city boundaries to even things out. The idea was brought to light, not by open discussion with city leaders, but by rural citizens becoming aware. Without something like SB 124 the county residents have no representation, no knowledge and no “standing” to protect what they have worked hard to acquire. Our land is just as important to our quality of life as any municipality.