



CITY OF HOUSTON
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Honorable DeWayne Burns
Chairman, House Land and Resource Management Committee
Room E2.604
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: House Bill 1279 relating to the extent of a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to House Bill 1279 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 1279. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 1279 removes significant portions of the ETJ cities across the state. For cities with a population of 100,000 or more, the ETJ is reduced from a 5-mile radius from the full purpose corporate boundary to a one-half mile radius. The removal of this jurisdiction would take place on September 1, 2023. This quick removal would have unintended consequences such as a lack of trained professionals ready to take on all platting activities in the ETJ and the loss of trained personnel with the authority to regulate long range transportation efforts through the major thoroughfare and freeway plan in the ETJ around Houston.

In our experience, several property owners enjoy the protection that comes with being in the City of Houston's ETJ. They do not wish to become a part of any other municipality. The effect of this bill would leave them vulnerable to that possibility.

The City of Houston currently regulates all platting activity in the ETJ and the administration of the major thoroughfare plan for the future transportation needs in the region, largely within the ETJ. The city would lose the authority to perform those services in the ETJ if this bill were to pass leaving a large void some other entity would have to fill.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you through the duration of this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Nicole Smothers

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