



CITY OF HOUSTON

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April 5, 2023

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

RE: House Bill 4175 relating to municipal release of extraterritorial jurisdiction and disannexation involving certain areas

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to House Bill 4175 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 4175. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 4175 would require cities to provide full city services within 30 months to any area in the ETJ in which a city ordinance has been extended and denies or refuses to permit an activity or structure in that area. The City of Houston opposes this legislation because the platting activity in the ETJ falls under its purview and there are proposals that may be denied for valid reasons that protect the health and welfare of people in the area. The answer to those decisions is not to require full city services to the area in question when they would not otherwise be required.

The City of Houston's Planning and Development Department works diligently to plan the growth of the Houston region in a responsible way. Requiring unaffordable service provisions in response to refusing to permit an activity or structure of any kind with no parameters is not helpful to the area or the city.

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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