



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 4215 relating to the maximum size of a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to House Bill 4215 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 4215. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 4215 would greatly reduce the size of the ETJ for cities across the state. The maximum size of an ETJ under this bill would be reduced to 50 percent of the gross acreage of the municipality. Cities would be required to reduce the size of their ETJ to comply with this bill which takes effect on September 1, 2023. Should this new formula for the calculation of ETJ become law, the ETJ of the City of Houston would be reduced by almost three-fourths. Here are the numbers as they relate to the City of Houston:

ETJ Area as of March 2023 = **755,904 Acres**

City of Houston area (**full only**) = **382,959.36 acres** (ETJ is around **197.4%** of Houston's Area)

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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