



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Planning & Development Department

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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 443 relating to the extraterritorial jurisdiction in certain municipalities**

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to House Bill 443 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 443. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 443 removes significant ETJ authority from cities with a population of more than 1.8 million, authority smaller cities would still enjoy. Under this bill, ETJ would only apply to territory within 5 miles of municipal territory for which the city is providing full city services including fire and police service.

Additionally, this bill would remove the authority of the cities larger than 1.8 million to impose a tax in the ETJ. It is unclear how this would affect the existing limited purpose annexation areas and the strategic partnership agreements that are currently in place via a contract between the City of Houston and municipal utility districts (MUDs) located throughout the ETJ. Under those agreements, the city is authorized to impose a sales tax that it then splits with the MUDs. This tax has helped many areas in the ETJ pay for the infrastructure that supports the development projects in the Houston region.

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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