



CITY OF HOUSTON

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The Honorable Paul Bettencourt
Chairman, Senate Committee on Local Government
Room 3E.16 Capitol Building
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Senate Bill 369 relating to disannexation of certain areas that do not receive full municipal services

Dear Chairman Bettencourt:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to Senate Bill 369 and ask that this written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for SB 369. The City and I thank the Committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

SB 369 would require that any full purpose city territory not receiving full city services on December 31, 2023, be immediately disannexed. This law is unnecessary for the following reasons:

- The City of Houston already approves disannexation requests regularly. If a property owner within our full purpose jurisdiction cannot get the city services needed, the City will disannex the property. We have consistently done this over the past 20 plus years.
- The City of Houston is currently working on water and wastewater projects that would provide full city services to areas that lack them. These areas are currently mostly undeveloped, and we are working with property owners and developers to ensure they get the services needed as the areas are developed.
- Experience has shown us that some city residents do not want to be disannexed from the City of Houston. Even if all city services are not currently available in an area, there are often superior city services being provided that would be immediately lost upon disannexation.
- The automatic disannexation of property without input from the City or the property owner may result in unintended consequences that could be easily avoided by a simple disannexation analysis.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Broussard Smothers

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