



CITY OF HOUSTON

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April 12, 2023

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

RE: House Bill 2956 relating to municipal annexation of an area adjacent to contiguous or connecting railroad rights-of-way

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in support of House Bill 2956 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 2956. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 2956 allows a municipality that is annexing territory under the current annexation statutes to also annex with the initial area an additional area adjacent to a right-of-way of a railway line, spur, or other contiguous railroad property that is parallel to the municipality's boundaries.

This extension of annexation authority would be welcomed by municipalities and would aid in creating and keeping consistent jurisdictional boundaries. Clear jurisdictional boundaries are necessary for prompt, consistent emergency services and to ease enforcement efforts for law enforcement.

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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