



CITY OF KNOXVILLE
MADELINE ROGERO, MAYOR

March 20, 2016

Dear Senator Massey, Senator Briggs, and Senator McNally:

As Mayor of Knoxville and as members of Knoxville City Council, we are writing to let you know that our City strongly opposes the deannexation bill you will consider on the Senate floor on Monday, March 21st. This is an unfortunate example of legislation being considered and rushed through the process without sufficient understanding of its implications and consequences.

The proposed House version of the bill has not been properly vetted by the Senate State and Local Government Committee. Any floor vote should be delayed until its full impact is known by the committee of jurisdiction over these issues, and also by those citizens who may choose to deannex and those who would choose to remain in the City of Knoxville.

For example, deannexation can negatively impact the delivery of emergency services such as police and fire protection for all citizens, due to confusion resulting from a patchwork in City and County jurisdiction. Determining the City's investment and respective debt load for annexed areas over the past 18 years will be both complex and costly to the city and residents. There will also be new costs to County government in providing services to deannexed residents. Finally, there are serious doubts about the constitutionality of selectively targeting a handful of cities across the state. The bill will likely lead to several years of costly legal challenges and uncertainty for all residents and local governments. Collectively these issues will harm the City's ability to attract economic growth and plan for the future.

We ask that you support sending the bill through the regular committee process for further study so the impacts can be fully understood prior to consideration by the full Senate. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Madeline Rogero

Madeline Rogero
Mayor

Duane Grieve / WL

Duane Grieve
Vice Mayor, Councilmember

Brenda Palmer
Councilmember

Brenda Palmer

Daniel T. Brown
Councilmember

Daniel Brown

Finbarr Saunders
Councilmember

Finbarr Saunders / WL

Nick Della Volpe

Nick Della Volpe
Councilmember

Mark Campen

Mark Campen
Councilmember

Marshall Stair

Marshall Stair
Councilmember

George C. Wallace / WL

George C. Wallace
Councilmember

cc: Members of Tennessee Senate