

## Senate Committee - Rural Communities & Economic Development

Chair Roblan & Committee Members:

While I am a solid believer in personal property rights, I believe HB4029 is a demonstration of bad policy. This bill was written for specific properties in a specific city and does not treat all property owners within the city equally.

By the description provided in the bill, it is written solely for the City of Damascus. While it's true that Damascus is outside their time requirement for adopting a comprehensive plan, the current Mayor and City Council have plans coming before the voters this May.

If this bill were to pass, creating a comprehensive plan for the city would be very difficult, if not impossible. With withdrawal of properties forever changing the boundary of the city, they would have to continue re-starting their plan.

Furthermore, the state legislature should not be allowed to override the authority of an incorporated home rule city or impede it's process and function. This bill allows the state legislature to override the charter of an incorporated city, growing the authority of the State and limiting control of local governments. The bill also has an emergency clause in it that prevents the public from objecting to this state government overreach.

Finally, it concerns me that this bill is being presented because, if passed, it sets a terrible precedent for the State to meddle in areas that really should be handled locally.

I urge you to vote no on HB4029-A.

At the very least, it should be tabled and brought into the next session for discussion if the May vote does not produce a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Damascus.

Thank you,  
Traci Hensley

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction..." ~  
Ronald Reagan