

April 30, 2015

Representative Mitch Greenlick  
Chair of the House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon

Re: SB 121-A

Representative Greenlick:

I am writing to thank you for scheduling a public hearing on Senate Bill 121-A regarding forced annexations in relation to areas declared to pose a public health hazard.

The City of Milton-Freewater would like to go on record as being in strong support of this important Bill.

We are a small city of only 7,060 residents who are in peril of having a \$10-15 million extension of city services and utilities forced upon our citizens and ratepayers to benefit fewer than 20 residents who live outside the City limits. The current State Statute allows for a petition of only 11 residents to force a very expensive and comprehensive action (annexation) onto 1000's of affected property owners and citizens. The current State Statute offers no "off-ramps" to the process. The current State Statute does not allow for consideration of expense or common sense when arriving at a workable solution to solve the health risk issue. It is virtually a one way train trip to forced annexation to solve what can be, and is in our case, a problem to a relatively small number of residents.

Senate Bill 121-A solves those problems with the current statute and would allow for city officials to work with the affected property owners to solve the health risk problems and arrive at a workable, reasonable, affordable solution that all parties could live with.

We strongly urge your support of this very important Senate Bill.

Thank you again for your time and consideration to this matter!

Sincerely,  
Linda Hall, City Manager  
City of Milton-Freewater