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Representative Tammie Wilson

Sponsor Statement

HJR 39 disapproves an annexation decision that is flawed in both substance and process.

The annexation plan, presented by the City of Fairbanks to the Local Boundary Commission, seeks ~0.05 square miles of residential and commercial property. The plan is encumbered by insurmountable legal and practical challenges, and **creates an unnecessary risk to public safety** for residents during fire and life-threatening medical emergencies.

Substantive problems with the annexation proposal:

- The City, and LBC, failed to contend with, or consider, a number of factors relevant to the legal standards applicable in evaluating annexation proposals:
 - 3 AAC 110.090, Needs of the Territory.
 - **Lack of reasonable need;**
 - **Existing versus anticipated health, safety, and general welfare conditions;**
 - **Adequacy of existing services;**
 - **Detrimental effect to emergency services in the annexed area;**
 - **Initial Fire Service & EMS response time would increase exponentially**
 - **Per the City's own reports, police & fire service would be inadequate as the current demand cannot be met.**
 - 3 AAC 110.130, Boundaries.
 - **Consequences of creating an enclave.**
 - 3 AAC 110.135, Best Interests of the State.
 - **Attainment of self-government;**
 - **State's lack of relief of responsibility for local services.**
 - 3 AAC 110.970, Determination of Essential Services.
 - **Most effective form of municipal service.**
- General Effect on the City of Fairbanks with respect to EMS, police, and fire response:
 - Availability of Emergency Services would decrease for all Fairbanks' residents.

Severe Flaws of Due Process with the annexation proposal:

- The method did **not** incorporate a vote or survey of residents affected by annexation.
- All hearings of the Local Boundary Commission transpired **without representation** by a commissioner from the 4th Judicial District—the very area where annexation was proposed.

In short, the LBC's decision to approve annexation was based upon false data amidst a deficient process. Considering all problems with the proposal, the worst is that annexation poses a greater public safety risk to all residents.

I appreciate your support for HJR 39.