



**House Committee on Local Government
Hearing on House Bill 2150
Hearing Date – Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

**Written Testimony regarding HB 2150 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By Ron Fehr, City Manger**

Good afternoon, Chair Bergquist, Vice Chair Blex, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Local Government.

The City of Manhattan (“City”) opposes HB 2150. HB 2150 seeks to repeal subdivision regulations for cities to land outside of but within three miles of city limits. The City of Manhattan opposes this bill as it removes an important protection for cities.

- HB 2150 eliminates a city’s ability to apply their own planning and zoning regulations to areas directly adjacent to the city limits which are gateways to and from municipalities.
- Subdivision regulations require infrastructure standards which ensure the land will be developed properly. By removing these regulations, cities may have to take on substandard streets, sewers, stormwater, and water systems. As those systems age, they would have to be brought up to municipal standards at great cost to city taxpayers.
- A municipality’s extraterritorial planning and zoning jurisdiction within the three-mile radius serves a municipality’s interest and responsibilities in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and encourages collaboration together with the county.
- Maintaining the ability to apply City regulations outside city limits in a way that supports the community, and the interest of property owners is vital given Manhattan’s recent annexation of approximately 50 acres for the location of the Scorpion Biological Services, Inc., a \$650 million business investment project creating 500 new, high-paying jobs in Manhattan within the next seven years.

For all the reasons stated above, the City of Manhattan opposes HB 2150, and asks the Committee to reject consideration of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.