



**House Committee on Local Government
Hearing on House Bill 2580
Hearing Date – February 12, 2020**

**Written Testimony in opposition to HB 2580 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By the Honorable Usha Reddi, Mayor of Manhattan**

Good afternoon Chair Thompson, Vice Chair Bergquist and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Local Government. My name is Usha Reddi, Mayor of Manhattan.

The City of Manhattan opposes HB 2580, concerning the elimination of a City's unilateral annexation powers unless property owners consent to the annexation. Such legislation would prohibit growth, cause increases in service costs to city residents, and hinder local governments from addressing health and safety related issues.

- HB 2580 would eliminate a cities ability to work proactively with an adjacent county to properly address safety and environmental issues related to sanitary sewers, water service, roadways or other infrastructure.
- For example, the City of Manhattan and Riley County have worked together in the past where adjacent residential subdivisions outside the city limits have encountered failing individual or group septic and treatment systems, which were contaminating private water wells and ground water sources. Without unilateral annexation to provide appropriate water and sewer utilities, it is likely the area would not have been able to agree on adequate provision of services because in some cases not every lot was fully impacted yet.
- There would be no practical reason for a City to extend municipal water or sanitary sewer services beyond its city limits to customers outside the city if they could not someday hope to benefit from future growth and development in those areas. Moreover, cities that have already extended services outside the city in planning for future growth through regional Comprehensive Land Use Plans adopted through Public Hearings by cities and counties would not be able to realize an adequate return on its infrastructure investments.

For all the reasons stated above, the City of Manhattan opposes HB 2580, and asks the Committee to reject consideration of any legislation undermining the annexation powers of cities. Thank you for your time and consideration.