

House Substitute for Senate Bill 51 Veto Message from the Governor

“The state should not take action that limits the ability of cities to pursue developments that will lead to economic growth, especially during these difficult economic times. Cities in Kansas must have the flexibility to annex property that will allow growth and economic development. Planning for growth in a way that promotes the health, safety and public welfare of its citizens and neighbors also is a fundamental responsibility of cities.

“I support the procedural safeguards for landowners whose property is annexed over their objection that are contained in House Substitute for SB 51. I also support the provisions limiting a city’s future ability to annex a narrow corridor of land to reach a non-contiguous tract of land, and the provisions dealing with rural water districts. I hope the Legislature will focus on these aspects of House Substitute for SB 51 during the next legislative session.

“I am concerned that the provisions in House Substitute for SB 51 that prohibit a city from annexing more than 65 acres of land devoted to agricultural use may prevent cities from growing in ways that would greatly benefit the economy. I have confidence that the current requirement for a county commission to approve a city’s proposed annexation of property in the unincorporated county provides a safeguard from unreasonable annexation attempts.

“Therefore, pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto House Substitute for Senate Bill 51.”

Vetoed May 22, 2009

Signed Mark Parkinson