

DONNA ROWLAND
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
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CONSUMER AND EMPLOYEE AFFAIRS
FISCAL REVIEW

House of Representatives State of Tennessee

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Dear Neighbors:

August 9, 2006

I have followed, with concern, the City of Murfreesboro's quest to annex property that you own. I wanted give you an update on the status of this annexation study as well as a few other points of interest.

The permission to annex this area, as well as others, was given to the City of Murfreesboro by the Rutherford County Commission around 2000 when the boundaries for the Urban Growth Plan were approved by both governments.

The study is now pending before the City of Murfreesboro Planning Commission with a possible recommendation at the next meeting on August 23rd. Should the Planning Commission recommend the study area for annexation, the annexation request then goes before the Murfreesboro City Council. Once the request has been heard at three separate council meetings, the final vote is taken.

If approved after the third and final reading, property owners then have an opportunity to contest the annexation. You will have only 30 days once the annexation has passed the City Council to act. State law allows for the affected parties to challenge the annexation by proving either:

- 1. An annexation ordinance is unreasonable for the overall well-being of the communities involved; or*
- 2. The health, safe and welfare of the citizens and property owners of the municipality and territory will not be materially retarded in the absence of such annexation.*

In my research, I have found at least one organization that successfully champions this type of challenge. I have enclosed information on Citizens for Home Rule, Inc. This is not meant to be an endorsement of this organization, but an attempt to point to possible resources. Please feel free to search for other entities that may be of assistance should you choose to exercise your right to challenge the potential annexation.

I urge you to continue to let the council members know how you feel about this annexation. I will continue to follow this issue and once the legislative session begins in Nashville in January, I will bring it up for discussion.

On another note, neither my husband nor I are related to the firm of Rowland and Rowland Development.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Donna Rowland
State Representative
34th Legislative District

DR:scs
Enclosure