

A RESOLUTION TO INFORM STATE LEGISLATORS AND THE STATE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THIS MUNICIPALITY'S OPPOSITION TO PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL NO. 98 OR PROPOSED "ANNEXATION REFORM"

WHEREAS, Ohio has long had a recognized procedure to provide for annexation of property adjacent to municipal corporations, which allows the governmental entity best able to serve development to have jurisdiction of the area sought to be annexed; and

WHEREAS, the procedures set forth in Chapter 709 of the Ohio Revised Code have been amended several times in years past to ameliorate perceived imbalances; and

WHEREAS, the procedure set forth in Chapter 709 of the Ohio Revised Code properly protects the interests of property owners in determining the jurisdiction where development of their land can best take place; and

WHEREAS, 67 percent of the state's population resides within municipal corporations; and

WHEREAS, proposed annexation reform bills, including House Bill No. 98, would remove the right of property owners to decide where development of their land should best occur and would substitute an unfair and ultimately unworkable "general good of the surrounding area" standard to annexation requests; and

WHEREAS, the proposed annexation reform bill would prevent the growth of municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed annexation reform bill would create an unworkable "100 percent" owners annexation procedure, as it requires Township agreement before the process can be utilized; and

WHEREAS, under the present system provided in the existing Chapter 709 of the Ohio Revised Code, land annexed to municipalities is not necessarily removed from the Township tax base; and

WHEREAS, the proposed annexation reform bill improperly seeks to create revenue sharing mechanisms wherein municipalities will provide services and township will retain risk-free revenue; and

WHEREAS, adoption of House Bill No. 98, or similar proposed annexation reform bills would stifle, and in many instances, deter economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Richfield, Summit County, State of Ohio, a majority of its members concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Council of the Village of Richfield hereby expresses its adamant opposition to House Bill No. 98 and any annexation reform bill that (1) removes a property owner's choice, (2) requires a township's approval, (3) does not emphasize that property should be located where it can be developed, or (4) changes the definition of "general good" to an area which includes areas outside the area sought to be annexed and hereby urges its state Representatives and state Senator be told to oppose passage of such anti-economic development and anti-property owners' rights legislation.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of the Council of the Village of Richfield be, and is hereby, instructed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the governor, the president of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, our state Senator, our state Representatives and to the chairpersons of such legislative committees as are considering House Bill No. 98.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: January 4, 2000

Libby Peter Egan
Vice President of Council

Ronald W. Larsen
Mayor

Dated: 1/4/2000

ATTEST:

Carola Gibson
Clerk of Council