

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Representative Lee Kaldor Chairman

Dear Mr. Kaldor

My name is Warren Solberg, my family and I reside at 11601 25th St. S. Horace ND. 58047 and I am a lifelong resident of Stanley Township. In the past I have served on the Township Board as a Supervisor and I continue to stay informed with issues that pertain to our Township.

The issue that poses the greatest threat to the well-being of our Township is the wholesale annexation of land by the cities of Fargo and Horace. I believe that the overriding emotion that drives these annexations is fear. (Horace has annexed a large portion on the western side of Stanley Township and Fargo has annexed a strip of land, which lies north to south, all the way through the center of our Township and into the adjoining Township.) Residents in these affected areas are concerned about forced annexation into a city not of their choosing, which the Township has no power to stop. The city of Horace doesn't want to be surrounded by a larger city such as has happened to Frontier and Prairie Rose. And Fargo is fearful of seeing its future growth stopped. All of these factors have caused Stanley Township the loss of power to regulate our zoning and loss of revenue. The most recent annexations by the city of Fargo near 52nd Avenue can be justified as those owners needed improvements to their property that the Township can't provide. The two former annexations I mentioned, to the best of my knowledge, have not seen any change in services than those that were provided by the Township.

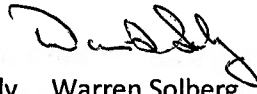
The most recent annexation which affects our farm is the additional acreage that was approved by the city of Fargo which extends the city limits into the neighboring Township to the South. This narrow six mile long strip of land has no functional purpose for the city of Fargo other than to allow them the control of zoning in this area. The Fargo city planning commission has even shown that some of this land is in the fifty to one hundred year range for development purposes. This land will take will take many years to develop, but the city will have the ability to control the zoning immediately when it is approved.

This Gerrymandering of the rural area by the city of Fargo is bad government policy. They say that they need to protect the city's future growth. It seems strange that in order to accomplish this it is necessary to use a method of governing that has been in our history for two hundred years as an example of bad governance.

This type of governing needs to stop. Stanley Township is willing to do what it takes to govern in a more efficient manner, but they need help. Laws need to be passed that will protect the residents of a township from over zealous annexation and the loss of zoning power. The present laws can't be allowed to remain; they need to be changed as they are woefully inadequate.

(over)

Thank you for convening your committee meeting in Fargo. I hope the testimonies today can be used to change the laws for tomorrow.



Sincerely Warren Solberg