

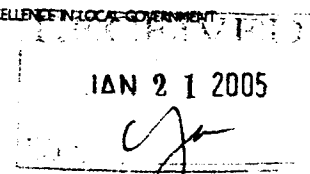


nclm NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

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PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



SCAN TO M+TC 1/24
JG

January 19, 2005

Dear Mayor:

With the 2005 session of the N.C. General Assembly about to begin, we are requesting that you discuss the importance of annexation authority with the members of your legislative delegation. Some of you may have already met with your delegation, but we are sure that you will have additional opportunities to bring up annexation as the legislature gets underway. If you are scheduled to meet with legislators soon, please consider adding this subject to your agenda.

We do not know of any particular threat to your ability to annex, but anti-annexation bills are introduced every session, and there is vocal opposition to this important local tool. What we are asking is that you emphasize with your representatives and senators that you consider this an important tool that must remain available to your town or city.

Specifically, we suggest you make the following points.

Annexation is one of your most important tools to keep taxes low for municipal residents and businesses, keep the bond rating of your town strong and protect the environment. You would ask that legislators support the state's long-standing annexation statutes and respectfully ask that legislators not support any bills that would harm this authority.

We ask that you bring up annexation as one of your priorities, not as a priority of the League. The League is the collective opinion of more than 530 cities and towns, and virtually all the membership very strongly supports annexation. In talking with your representatives and senators, however, your particular support – or the support of all the cities and towns in your area – will make the case for annexation most effectively.

When you have the chance to talk with legislators, please let us know their reactions. You can call me or Andy Romanet, our general counsel, or send us a fax at (919) 733-9519. Please look for additional background materials on annexation that we will be sending out in the next few weeks. Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,

S. Ellis Hankins
NCLM Executive Director

Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson, Winston-Salem
NCLM President

cc: Manager, Administrator or Clerk