



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DAN HUBERTY

July 15, 2019

Mr. Steven P. Leakey
38 Courtland Green Street
The Woodlands, TX 77382

Dear Mr. Leakey:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the potential for The Woodlands to be annexed against the will of its residents by the City of Houston or the City of Conroe. I am pleased to inform you that recent laws passed by the Texas Legislature have put an end to forced annexation, which means no community in Texas, including The Woodlands, can be forcibly annexed without the approval of its residents today or in the future.

Furthermore, the Regional Participation Agreements between The Woodlands and the City of Houston and the City of Conroe in no way commit The Woodlands to becoming a part of either city when they expire in 2057. Any attempt by these cities to annex The Woodlands would require the approval of a majority of Woodlands voters, in keeping with Texas law.

Following the 85th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 6, which I sponsored, was signed by Governor Greg Abbott and became law on December 1, 2017. This law prevented the forced annexation of communities in counties with populations of 500,000 or more, requiring a majority of voters in these communities to approve any annexation attempts at the ballot box.

During the 86th Legislative Session, I authored House Bill 347. This law, which went into effect with the Governor's signature on May 24, 2019, takes Senate Bill 6 a step further by requiring a majority of voters in communities of all sizes to approve annexation proposals, not just those with populations of 500,000 or more.

Thanks to these laws, no community in Texas, including The Woodlands, may be annexed without approval at the ballot box by a majority of that community's registered voters.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Huberty".

Dan Huberty

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281-360-9410

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