



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

To: Representatives E. Brooks, Ripp, Novak, Duchow, Steffen, Skowronski, Subeck, Berceau, and Spreitzer

Cc: Representatives Jacque, Kerkman, Nygren, & Tittl

From: Rep. Allen

Date: 8 March 2017

Re: AB109, modifying the requirements for certain towns to withdraw from county zoning

The Assembly Committee on Local Government held a hearing today which I was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

I am opposed to Section 4 of the bill which repeals 60.23 (34)(b) 3., which is quoted here:

3. The ordinance enacted under par. (a) is approved either at the annual town meeting or in a referendum called by the town board for that purpose at the next spring or general election, to be held not sooner than 70 days after the referendum is called by the town board.

We all understand that democracy can be challenging and inconvenient. It is at the town government level where we can still exercise democracy in its purest form rather than relying on representation to interpret the will of the people. Why would we want to take away the voice of the people in having a say as to how their town would develop?

This so-called "clean-up" bill fixes the challenges that some people have regarding timing involved with opting out of county zoning, which, in and of itself, is extraordinary. Section 4 of the bill, however, takes power away from town residents.

When we make changes like that for state government, we do so by state-wide referendum. Why would we avoid public input at the town level?

Absent an amendment that removes Section 4, I urge you to vote no on AB109.