

**From:** Greg Nelson <gwntsc@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** clerk <clerk@miamicountyks.org>  
**Subject:** Golden, Kansas Petition

**\*\*This email originated from outside of County of Miami\*\***

June 30, 2021

Miami County Board of County Commissioners:

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I attended the Public Hearing for the consideration of the Petition for Incorporation of the City of Golden on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and heard many impassioned people talk about the truck traffic that the Edgerton Intermodal and Warehouse development has generated, chiefly along Gardner Road and 223<sup>rd</sup> Street. They mentioned that these roads are not safe, lacking shoulders and proper intersections to handle large trucks. While I agree with them on the safety aspects, and as a resident along Gardner Road between 215<sup>th</sup> and 223<sup>rd</sup>, I am not pleased with the increase in traffic; sadly, incorporation into a third-class city will not stop the truck traffic on these roads, as these are functionally classified as major collector routes. Nor will it do anything to improve these roads – in fact, adding another level of government over this area of Miami county could impede the possibility of getting state or federal funding to improve these roads. H.R. 4808, introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress would tie funding for Surface Transportation Block Grants to the implementation of an Affordable Housing Strategy “to increase affordable housing stock as described in subsection (n) of section 104 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.” It is very likely a similar bill will be introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. This could have a very detrimental effect on a city comprised chiefly of single-family homes on large acreages. Another resident, speaking in favor of incorporation, mentioned that there are over 500 third class cities in the state of Kansas that have a functioning government providing services to their citizens and asked, “How do these cities do it?” My response would be with revenue derived from city taxes. I looked at city mill levies, valuations, areas and populations of 82 third class cities in 13 Kansas counties, mostly in the first and second tiers surrounding Miami County, and including Sedgwick County because it has several cities with large incorporated areas with low population densities similar to the proposed city of Golden, and found the following:

- Average city mill levy: 45.798
- Average valuation: \$5,0999,914
- Average area: 1.06 sq. miles
- Average population: 783

I understand that proponents of incorporation have been told that the city mill levy would likely only be 3 to 13 mills. Two cities in Sedgwick County, Kechi and Maize, have areas of 6.08 and 9.63 sq. miles respectively, with populations of 1,909 and 3,420, which equates to a relatively low population density similar to the proposed area of incorporation. Their mill levies are 35.070 (Kechi) and 43.061 (Maize). I find it highly improbable that mill levies in a newly incorporated “City of Golden” could start or remain near the projected 3 to 13 mills. I am not in favor of raising my property taxes by hundreds or thousands of dollars per year just to fend off expansion of the intermodal warehouses.

In summary, I am opposed to incorporation of the City of Golden, and I would encourage that a full study examining the financial impacts to the prospective residents of the proposed city be performed so that an informed decision can be made that determines the fate of the residents in this area.

Respectfully,

Greg Nelson

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Sent from my iPad