Wyoming Planning Association

August 11, 2017

To: Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee
FROM: The Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS)
RE: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Proposed Legislation

The Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS) is honored to have been asked by the Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee to work with the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) regarding proposed changes to extraterritorial jurisdiction legislation. Attached is WYOPASS’ proposed legislation.

Summary of Proposed Amendments:

- Amendments to W.S. 15-9-103 as proposed by the Wyoming County Commissioners Association.
- Amendments to W.S. 34-12-103 to establish review criteria for plats within towns and cities and counties. The proposed review criteria apply to all plats, including those reviewed within a town or city’s one-mile jurisdiction. This basic set of criteria works to ensure that all plats are reviewed in accordance with adopted community plans. The section also allows for jurisdictions to adopt agreements for any additional criteria.
- Amendments to W.S. 34-12-103 to establish a process to allow for a county commission to overturn a town or city ruling on a plat within one-mile of an incorporated town or city. This procedure would require a 75% super majority vote. The 75% threshold is not new to Wyoming statute, as the concept is found in W.S. 15-1-603. This would allow a 5-person commission to overturn a city decision on a plat with an affirmative vote of 4 members and a 3-person commission to overturn a city decision by unanimous vote.

The language relating to extraterritorial jurisdiction has the ability to affect the growth of incorporated towns and cities that represent 68% of the state’s population (2010 U.S. Census). Between 2000 and 2010 incorporated cities and towns grew by 14.6% and this continued growth is expected to be reflected in the upcoming census.

The intent of the proposed amendments to legislation is to remove some of the major obstacles that can prevent growth of a city or town. WYOPASS understands that this is not a solution to all potential conflicts within the one-mile jurisdiction, but believes this is a step in the right direction. Most importantly, these proposed changes create a predictable process and introduce minimum standards for all subdivisions and establish accountability for governing bodies when approving plats.

In the future WYOPASS hopes to be involved with future amendments to legislation regarding creation and modification of Master Plans in Titles 15 and 18 to create a consistent and better-defined process.

Sincerely,

WYOPASS Board of Directors