



Wyoming Planning Association

May 18, 2017

To: Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee
FROM: The Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS)
RE: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction – Formation of a Work Plan

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The Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS) requests that the Legislature provide an opportunity for WYOPASS to directly participate in the formation of the work plan concerning potential changes to Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of Municipalities. WYOPASS is a state-wide planning organization representing more than 200 planning professionals and citizens, both Municipal and County Planning interests, and acts as a leader in Wyoming and the West on planning related topics.

The State has recently experienced an economic downturn that has required resiliency, not only from our state leaders, but also from our counties, towns, cities and citizens. Now, more than ever, long-range master planning and good development practices must play a larger role in how cities, counties and towns cooperate. Through sound planning practices allowed by extraterritorial jurisdiction agreements recognized by the American Planning Association and endorsed by WYOPASS, WYOPASS can help the State make decisions that will enable a diverse economy, ensure fiscally responsible land use policies and continue an atmosphere of cooperation among jurisdictions. WYOPASS believes that any changes which could inhibit Municipal and County cooperation, disregard good and sound development practices recognized across the country and eliminates tools that allow municipalities and counties to stretch their already tight budgets should not be the direction the Interim Committee considers.

As Wyoming's sole professional planning organization, we respectfully request that WYOPASS, and its members, be granted an opportunity to provide professional planning expertise on the subject of "extraterritorial jurisdiction" prior to, and as part of any legislative proposals or decisions. WYOPASS believes that we can be an excellent resource to you and the rest of the legislature on the matter. It is important to take time to consider possible implications of changes to the law, both positive and negative, and to consider strengthening planning and cooperating statutes, thereby improving the tools and opportunities for communities to grow and develop economically and collaboratively with both county and municipal interests in mind.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please feel free to contact any of the WYOPASS board members to discuss formation of the work plan and/or participation opportunities, or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

WYOPASS Board of Directors

CC: WAM and WCCA