

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



AN OPEN LETTER TO ALABAMA LEGISLATORS

Without strong cities and towns, it is impossible to have a vibrant Alabama. 65% of Alabama residents live in municipalities; 25% in our ten largest cities alone. These communities are led by mayors and councils who were elected to move their cities forward, to identify problems and challenges and then search for and implement the best solutions. HB147 denies duly elected municipal officials the full ability to do their jobs.

Our opposition to the bill extends beyond a possible ban on new occupational taxes. We are opposed to the bill's assault on local governance. No municipal official desires to irresponsibly raise taxes.

As local leaders, we pursue policies and strategies to deliver crucial services, grow our economies and protect residents and visitors alike. We must have the flexibility to exercise our best judgement and uphold our oaths of office.

Alabama faces multiple challenges which the legislature alone is empowered to address. There are important issues in which mayors and city councils have neither influence nor control. However, identifying and solving problems on the local level is best suited for city leaders who have been given that responsibility by the voters. Placing legislative restrictions on our cities as we search for answers to the complex issues is an unnecessary overreach.

We recognize the need to have strong relationships between the legislature and city governments, but we are troubled by the hasty manner in which HB147 is being reviewed. This legislation should be tabled to allow for sufficient engagement in a productive dialogue.

Together, we can achieve a brighter future for Alabama, its cities and the great people who call our state "home".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'William S. Stimpson'.

William S. Stimpson
Chairman, Alabama's Big 10

Mayors

Mayor Ron Anders
City of Auburn

Mayor Randall Woodfin
City of Birmingham

Mayor Tab Bowling
City of Decatur

Mayor Mark Saliba
City of Dothan

Mayor Frank Brocato
City of Hoover

Mayor Tommy Battle
City of Huntsville

Mayor Paul Finley
City of Madison

Mayor William S. Stimpson
City of Mobile

Mayor Steven Reed
City of Montgomery

Mayor Walt Maddox
City of Tuscaloosa