



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

GREG FISCHER  
MAYOR

March 1, 2022

**Open Letter to the Kentucky General Assembly House Committee on Local Government**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 314. Along with significant fiscal impacts to Louisville, it would lay the groundwork to undo our incredibly successful city-county merger and override the wishes of Louisville/Jefferson County voters without any input of those citizens.

Merger has been a tremendous success for Louisville -- attracting businesses, streamlining services, and saving taxpayers money. HB 314 jeopardizes this success and includes a potential \$50 million annually hit on Metro's budget. HB 314 also threatens our competitive advantage in federal grant programs by substantially reducing the number of residents counted as Louisville population; for example, Louisville would NOT have been awarded \$134 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief fund disbursements if HB314 had been in place in 2020. We anticipate losing out on future federal funding if the bill is allowed to go forward.

Following years of discussion, the citizens of Louisville voted for merger. Since then, there has been no outcry by the people of Louisville to change city/county merger. Therefore, the legislature should pause efforts on HB 314 and allow for full public input, by the citizens who debated and voted for merger, before enacting any changes to merger. Furthermore, substantial changes to the merger law, like those proposed in HB 314, should only be taken if a majority of Louisvillians want change, and have a chance for their voices to be heard and the full impact of the legislation studied. Instead of sweeping, unilateral and detrimental changes without citizen input, Louisville Metro Council could form a task force of business and community leaders, stakeholders and the public to examine merger. The findings of this task force and subsequent community input should drive any state legislative changes.

I urge you to vote against HB 314. Our team welcomes and looks forward to any opportunity to meet with each of you to discuss these concerns. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for all you do for the people of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Greg Fischer  
Mayor

CC: Kentucky General Assembly House Leadership