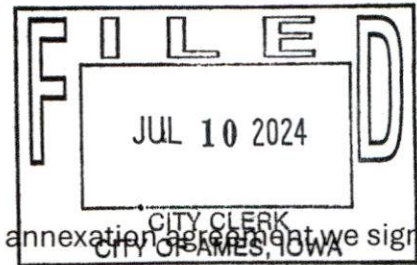


July 8, 2024

Mayor of City of Ames
Ames City Council



We have received a letter stating City of Ames would like to execute an annexation agreement that we signed 13 years ago in 2011. Because the conditions surrounding our location have drastically changed, we are writing this letter as a formal request that the City vacate the agreement or grant us an extension until at least July 2027.

Under the duress of lack of safe water for our family, we signed the annexation agreement in 2011 to get water from a city water line which was buried across our property at least 42 years ago. In 2011 we first requested to join Xenia rural water and Xenia was agreeable, but the City of Ames blocked our request. Our well tested positive to E-coli and we couldn't get an acceptable reading no matter what we did, so we did not wish to drill another well. At the time, we also felt that, if we were in the City, the City of Ames would protect us from unregulated development around us, for example, the way the development looks, bright lights, increased traffic, debilitating noise, emergency siren protection.

The ISU feed mill within the city limits of Ames, became operational in March 2024. Because of this, our quality of life has shifted dramatically, and we now have to deal with many major health and life-changing challenges. There is much sight, light, and noise pollution and increased large truck traffic from the feed mill, changing our rural residential living conditions to unsafe city industrial conditions.

For us, the noise pollution is the overwhelming negative experience affecting our health. At least two other neighbors share the same concerns. It is not a high decibel, but a low moaning noise that goes on and on, like sitting in a dentist's chair 9 hours each day. The noise of the feed mill was also mistaken for the emergency tornado sirens. The noise is worse at our house than it is at the feed mill. We won't know all the long-term negative effects of the feed mill, which is still not 100% operational, to our health, and even to our water, for many years, maybe decades.

Two times, we have asked for help from the City of Ames to stop the noise, which comes from within the City of Ames boundaries in which the mill is located. Both times we have been told there is nothing the City of Ames can do to help us since ISU is not under their jurisdiction.

Since we are bordered on two sides by ISU, over which the City of Ames has no jurisdiction, and since our neighborhood is a long-time-established completely built-out community, with no available developable area, the City of Ames cannot protect us from future development issues.

In summary, we are now under constant stress from the feed mill, with both known and unknown issues. It will be some time before we know the actual effects. We cannot sign any annexation documents or make any major decisions in the current conditions as described above.

Margaret Epplein
Ronald A Mowers