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The Honorable Shane Stolarczyk, Kendall County Judge
Commissioner Christina Bergmann, Kendall County Precinct 1
Commissioner Andra M. Wisian, Kendall County Precinct 2
Commissioner Richard Chapman, Kendall County Precinct 3
Commissioner Chad Carpenter, Kendall County Precinct 4

Dear Judge Stolarczyk, and Commissioners Bergmann, Wisian, Chapman & Carpenter: RE: Textit on the ballot?

My wife and I have resided in Kendall County since 1985. Over that time, we raised seven amazing children who benefited from our excellent public school system, and who have gone on to make their own productive contributions to society. We have stayed active in the community, and remain stewards of our valuable resources.

Recently, I learned that there is a grassroots movement underway in our County to get a 'Texas secession from the Union' on the ballot. Apparently, the folks behind this even have a booth at Market Days to push their agenda.

My first question is, "Why?" As a local citizen, a longtime Texas resident, and as an American, it is my personal opinion that this attempt to rip Texas away from The United States is a horrible, horrific idea. I trust you will make the right decision on this request to place an illegality on the ballot and say, "**no!**" Surely, there are more important ways to devote our time and resources.

For one, it would essentially take a revolution, a Civil War if you will, to pull it off because it would need the approval of the Federal Government. Do we really need to be voting on that?

Hypothetically speaking, let's say The State of Texas was actually able to secede from the Union. The new country would likely go into a rapid economic tailspin toward recession. Texas would be faced with having to create and fund for its own military force. Moreover, what was once a state called The State of Texas, would now be faced with issues centered around funding health care, disaster relief, a postal service, welfare, social security, public education including state schools such as Texas Tech, UT-Austin, Texas A&M, Texas State, social services, the FDA, CIA, FBI and more. It's my guess that the United States would likely lay claim to its federal lands (parks like Big Bend, military bases, etc.) Why are we at this point? This is at the vanguard of a major crisis.

Eric McDaniel, Associate Professor of Government at The University of Texas at Austin, told *The Texas Tribune* in 2016, "...when the Confederacy surrendered at Appomattox in 1865, the idea of secession was permanently defeated. The Union's victory set a precedent that states could not legally secede."

In 1868, *Texas vs. White*, the Supreme Court justices maintained that when Texas "became one of the United States, the State entered into an indissoluble relation." This seems very clear to me, and I did not attend law school. If there was any constitutional issue resolved by the Civil War, it is that there is no right to secede. Heck, the Pledge of Allegiance even states, "...one Nation, indivisible..." Decades later, Justice Antonin Scalia stated that "...the Constitution does not make any provisions for secession."

To this Kendall Country resident, the notion of Texas seceding from the Union is just silly talk. The path will needlessly cost lives, resources, and adversely affect our economy. Please, please, just say "**no**" to this insanity. We are better than this.

Sincerely,


Paul W. Kirtley