

Frank Dillman, Notasugla public comments before House Local Legislation Cmte 17May2017
on SDB414, 334-740-4217

Good morning Chairman Baker, committee members, and citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of hundreds of Macon County petitioners in opposition to SB414.

Unfortunately, work and tending to sick friends and family members and the change from yesterday has prohibited more concerned citizens from attending today.

This bill is dividing the county and it deserves discovery of facts.

I have provided each of you a handout showing Macon County demographics, many of which I am not proud of.

On behalf of the petitioners, we are not wanting to take anything earned from anyone BUT to stop the un-sunsetting consequences of giving away \$38,400 a year and representing only 8 of 19k county citizens.

Citizens, fire departments, and elected public servants all contribute to county activities; we all chip in. Elected public servants' travel expenses are reimbursed unlike citizens serving on committees and assisting the county. Where is the uniformity? They volunteered to serve fully knowing their compensation and benefits.

Where has the transparency been during this whole evolution? No open discussion, no town hall meetings, no local newspaper guest column, and no use of the electronic media. All the persons, including a county employee, who signed the petitions knew nothing of the pay raises in a county with per capita income of \$17K. I asked the commission where and when this expense was discussed publically and did not receive an answer. I asked my representative, sponsor of the companion bill of the source of funding and necessity, no answer.

This proposed pay increase equals approximately 25% of the county's per capita income AND about a 20% pay raise for the part-time commissioners, while the county is "broke," often stated by the chairman. At some time the collective \$38K/year will be replaced by additional taxation. Actually it should be used to dig us out of the \$1.25M debt to the Capital Improvement Fund identified in the last county audit.

I am embarrassed seeing my county public servants here today wanting to fatten their salaries at the expense of the county's infrastructure, socio-economics, and general well-being, not forgetting the \$1.25M which will be repaid per the chair, "in increments, until its paid off as our revenues increase."

Thank you for your time and understanding.