SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

CHAIRMAN NORRIS AND TACIR MEMBERS:

MY NAME IS JERRY AUSTIN AND I AM A COMMISSIONER IN WHITE COUNTY REPRESENTING DISTRICT 4, WHERE MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS BUY THEIR WATER FROM THE BONDECROFT UTILITY DISTRICT.

I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK YOU TO RECOMMEND TO THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE THAT RATEPAYERS IN THIS DISTRICT GET THE RIGHT TO ELECT THEIR COMMISSIONERS, BECAUSE THE COUNTY MAYOR APPOINTMENT SYSTEM HAS NOT WORKED THERE. WE ARE ONLY ASKING FOR THIS ONE UTILITY DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY.

MANY OF US HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT WE, AS AMERICAN CITIZENS, HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE. OVER 700 PEOPLE, MORE THAN HALF OF THE RATEPAYERS IN THE BDCUD, SIGNED A PETITION ASKING FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR COMMISSIONERS AT THE DISTRICT.

THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE HAS GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE TO TEN UTILITY DISTRICTS IN THE STATE. THE BONDECROFT RATEPAYERS HAVE FOLLOWED THE SAME PROCESS AS THEY DID AND IT WOULD ONLY BE FAIR TO GIVE THEM THIS RIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY, Jerry E. Austin

JERRY E. AUSTIN

WHITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERSDISTRICT 4

## Commissioner Al Klee District 4, White County, TN 240 Overlook Drive, Sparta, TN 38583

September 6, 2011

Honorable Mark Norris
Chairman
Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR)
226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Suite 508
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: SB 500/HB 479 (S: Burks/H: Curtiss)

Dear Senator Norris,

I want to tell the TACIR that I strongly support SB500/HB 479 (S: Burks/H: Curtiss). A number of my constituents have expressed a loss of confidence in the appointment process to provide a method of holding utility district board members responsible for their actions. They have asked for the right to vote; I urge TACIR to support this also.

Our Country's founders fought and died to establish the right to vote. This is a heartfelt and personal issue as I served in the US Military for over 26 years to maintain our rights; furthermore, there are uncounted numbers of people in District 4, White County, and many members of our State Legislative bodies who also done so.

I am unable to attend the TASCIR meeting on September 7, 2011. Feel free to contact me via eMail at <u>aisklee@gmail.com</u> or telephonically at (931) 205-6258. Your thoughtful deliberation in making a recommendation on this highly important matter is greatly appreciated.

Very Respectfully,

Al Klee