

Jenni Koch

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I stand before you today to ask you to vote YES on the petition to incorporate Golden, KS.

I have lived in Miami County my entire life and would honestly choose no other location to live than here. I might be slightly biased, but it is the most beautiful and perfect place to live and raise a family. We built our home 10 years ago on land my husband's family has owned for 40 years. We have rescued many animals including horses, donkeys, dogs – we love our community and rural lifestyle. We have built outbuildings and fencing to accommodate our little farm.

As this year has unfolded, we have learned that even though we own our property and the 16 acres we live on, our fate lies in the hands of a small town that isn't neighboring ours at all – well, until now. Since learning all that we have since January, we have spoken to Miami and Johnson County, as well as neighboring cities. All hear our words, but merely offer condolences as there is nothing they can do. Even though all fully agree that it is completely inappropriate to build a massive warehouse complex in the middle of a neighborhood. All except Edgerton, I suppose.

We attend meetings in Edgerton, only to be shut out by suits and their employees and mocked by their commissioners with statements like "if you want to look at the stars, go camping" John Daley, in reference to our statements that the massive size of these million square foot warehouses will block all view of the sky surrounding our neighborhood. We are nothing to them, as we are not residents of their city. We are just residents of Miami County and even though our properties now touch their city limits, according to them we have no right to tell them what to do and what is best for their citizens.

We have researched tirelessly and it wasn't until we learned of the idea of forming the city, that we finally felt hope. Golden would allow us all the things that American citizens should have – basic rights to have a say in what happens in our neighborhood without taking anything from anyone. A basic right that Edgerton has denied us and that Miami County wasn't able to give us until now.

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