

Steve Brown, Chairman
Fayette County Board of Commissioners

Commentary on the Draft ARC Bylaws

In Article VI, Section A – Composition, Subsection 2. a. Members at Large – A CID board member cannot act as a Member at Large, providing that “Members at large may hold no elective or appointed public office nor be employed by any of the political subdivisions of the Area.”

In Article VI, Section G, Subsection 1.a. Chair – The region suffers a significant loss of accountability by having a Member at Large as the Chairman of the ARC. The region’s citizens have no recourse with a Member at Large as Chairman. Lack of trust is already a crucial issue.

In Article VI, Section G, Subsection 1.d. Duties – The power is too consolidated around the Chairman. We could have a scenario where the Chairman, other officers and the committee chairmen could be comprised of a majority of Members at Large, creating significant constituent accountability issues.

We should be focusing on de-centralizing the power to create accountability and trust.

In Article VI, Section H, Subsection 5. Citizen Input – I was astound when I found out that the region’s citizens could not automatically address the ARC Board. Trust? Accountability?

In Article VI, Section I, Subsection 1.e. 4) Quorum under Transportation and Air Quality Committee – I find it astonishing that we would ever consider a quorum of 40% of the members present. Again, trust and accountability?

In Article VI, Section I, Subsection 1. a. Governance Committee – Please DECENTRALIZE the power. All of the members of the governance committee are appointed by the Chairman. The past several years, our Chairman has no direct accountability to our region’s citizens. This sends the wrong message to our constituents.

It was brought to my attention that the enabling legislation as defined in HB 1216. According to the provisions on page 13, Section (e) states, “Each regional commission council shall elect from among its council members a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary or treasurer who shall serve for a term of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified.” It appears we have been in NON-COMPLIANCE for years.

I have personally faced the wrath of the previous ARC Chairman, a CID board member with no accountability to the region’s citizens, being told that my opposition to a regional proposal would make things difficult for me. The thought of no citizen recourse to remove such ARC board members along with the enhanced centralization of power of the ARC Chairman is indefensible to any person claiming to want fairness and accountability in the system.