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**Notice of a Bennington Citizens' Meeting:
An Opportunity to Preserve Bennington's Continued Independence
and Defend Local Control Throughout Nebraska**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENNINGTON, Neb. – Citizens for a Free Nebraska (CFN) will be holding a town hall meeting in the Bennington High School commons area on Thursday evening to explain an opportunity for the citizens of Bennington to preserve the independence of their City and to defend the right of all Nebraskan citizens to have a representative government. The town hall meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st.

Along with CFN officials, guest speakers at the meeting will include Dave Clark, former Mayor of Bennington, Phil Klein, former Mayor of Elkhorn, Bill Pulte, former President of the Bennington School Board and legislative candidate, and Rex Moats, Bob Tingelhoff, and a representative of Beau McCoy, legislative candidates for district 39.

At the meeting, CFN will explain its strategy to defend Bennington's independence and give the citizens the right to vote before they are forcefully overtaken by Omaha. But, CFN also believes that its efforts are of statewide importance. Jason Fuller, an organizer of CFN, explained that, "while we are fighting for the City of Bennington's independence, the fight for independence and local control is certainly not confined to any one city or region in Nebraska. Not only is CFN fighting for the right to independence for all of the remaining cities in Douglas and Sarpy Counties and the reestablishment of the City of Elkhorn, but this is a fight that must be won for the rights of all Nebraskans because the outcome of the struggle will impact all Nebraskans, east and west, whether they currently realize it or not."

CFN invites all citizens of Nebraska who wish to know more about the statewide implications of their efforts to visit their website, www.freenebraska.net, and read their *Statewide Implications* letter.

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CFN is currently circulating two statewide initiative petitions. If the effort is successful, the petitions would place two laws on the statewide ballot for voters to decide whether or not they will be enacted: one would prohibit the takeover of any city or village in Nebraska without a majority vote of its citizens and the other would allow the citizens of any city or village that has been annexed to petition to detach and reestablish as an independent city within five years. The full text of the statutes can be found on their website, www.freenebraska.net. The State of Nebraska is the only state in the Union that allows one municipality to take over another without a vote of the citizens, and CFN says that it intends to correct that.

"When it comes down to it, all that we are fighting for is the right to vote on issues that are fundamental to the form of government on which our nation was founded; the same right to vote that is found everywhere else in the country. After all, what is the fear in allowing the people to vote? Who fears that, in the United States of America, the principles of its own Constitution would be put into action? The answer is obvious: those who fear the voice of the citizens are those who do not truly represent them," Fuller said.

The citizens of Nebraska have the prerogative to act as the state's second legislative body and enact laws through the petitioning process. Through a statewide effort of gathering about 80,000 signatures (seven percent of the registered voters in the state), the people could bring the issue to the ballot this year and enact the laws being proposed by CFN.

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