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**Notice of an Elkhorn Citizens' Meeting:
A New Opportunity to Regain Independence and
Defend Local Control Throughout Nebraska**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKHORN, Neb. – Citizens for a Free Nebraska will be holding a town hall meeting at the Elkhorn High School auditorium next week to explain the details of a new opportunity for the City of Elkhorn to regain its independence and to defend the right of all Nebraskan citizens to have a representative government. The sponsors are inviting everyone who is interested in upholding the principles of democracy and local representation to attend the 7 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, November 14.

The City of Elkhorn, a 140 year-old community of 8,200 with its own rich history and unique identity, fought against unilateral takeover by the metropolitan-class City of Omaha in the courts for over two years. But, after the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately denied Elkhorn's appeal for a stay, Elkhorn was forced to hand over its City Hall on March 1, 2007 without a vote of the citizens. 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.

"It's not like this anywhere in the country," Tom Fencl, a longtime Elkhorn resident, commented. "We never had the opportunity to decide. The main thing is to get it on the ballot and vote. That's why it's a greater issue of principle and rights."

Fencl is one of several citizens from Elkhorn and the surrounding area who hopes to change the law in Nebraska by having citizens endorse two initiative petitions. The initiative petitions would exercise the citizens' prerogative to act as a second legislative body and force the issue of independence onto the ballot, where they say it belongs. Sponsors of the initiative include Fencl, Jason Fuller, Troy Peterson, Jill Magers, Dr. James Abel, and District #39 State Senator Dwite Pedersen.

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Jason Fuller, who grew up in Elkhorn, explained that the citizens of Elkhorn and Citizens for a Free Nebraska believe that, "while they are fighting for the City of Elkhorn's independence, independence and local control are in no way "Elkhorn-exclusive" issues.

"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," Fuller said.

He added that, "municipalities across the state should not become lulled into a false sense of security and complacency, but should instead take notice of the injustices being committed in the east and be warned that unless something is done to put an end to it now, the City of Elkhorn will certainly not be the last to fall."

"And, with increasing control of the State Legislature being taken away from western Nebraskans, even the most remote municipalities are at risk of being controlled by those who may not have their best interests in mind," Fuller noted.

At the November 14th meeting, the sponsors will explain their strategy and give citizens an opportunity to show their support for the initiative petitions which would enact new laws that guarantee Nebraskans the right to vote on annexations. Through a statewide effort of gathering about 71,000 signatures (seven percent of the registered voters in the state), the people could enact the initiatives and bring the issue to the ballot by next year.

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