

DR. S. W. WRIGHT
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City of Bessemer

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CITY CLERK AND TREASURER

BESSEMER, ALABAMA

DR. M. C. RAGSDALE
CITY PHYSICIAN

LEO HILL, CHIEF OF FIRE DEPT.
R. S. MOON, STREET SUPT.
CLYDE MORRIS, RECORDER

August 22, 1935

Honorable Harry E. Walker, Speaker
House of Representatives
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In behalf of the City of Bessemer we wish to acknowledge and thank you for your fine cooperation shown to us in securing an interview with Mr. David Lillienthal in Knoxville at 9:15 A. M. today, Thursday for our City Attorney, Mr. George Bains.

We are also very anxious to secure your kind and efficient cooperation in having passed by this legislature a bill to prevent the subsidization of members of governing bodies of municipalities by public utility corporations.

In our City the Mayor and several members of the council have members of their immediate families employed by public utility corporations. As a result of which they are in a position of having to serve two masters. It has been our experience here in Bessemer that a member of the governing body of a municipality so subsidized cannot be relied upon to protect the public interest in any issue, such as municipal ownership, involving the interest of the subsidizing corporation. As a result of this condition we feel that our entire municipal ownership movement is jeopardized.

We feel sure that you will sympathize with us in having enacted a state wide bill which will relieve subsidized officials from the privilege of voting or otherwise acting on any issue effecting the subsidizing corporation.

We believe that you will agree with us as a moral and ethical proposition that a person so subsidized ought to recuse himself in voting on issues effecting the subsidizer and we feel that if a subsidized official will not recuse himself he should be relieved by law of the privilege of voting on such issues.

We believe that the bill, a copy of which we are enclosing, is a bill for better municipal government in Alabama. It is a bill designed to reduce the pernicious effects of invisible government in our cities.

As you will observe on reading the bill, it is carefully drawn to prevent circumvention. The six months clause for example prevents the discharge of an employee-relative just prior to an important vote and the subsequent reemployment of said employee. The bill is also designed to prevent the dropping of an employee-relative from utility pay-rolls and immediately transferring them to other friendly pay-rolls.

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Page #2

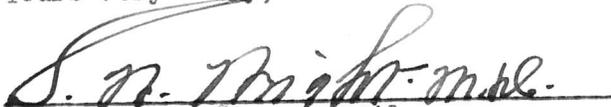
We very much trust that this bill will meet with your sympathy and that you will cooperate with us to the extent of having the Governor place the bill upon his "Must" list of bills.

Representative Welch has assured us of his sympathy with the bill and of his cooperation in introducing it into the House. He also has stated that he would endeavor to have the Governor place it upon his "Must" list.

Also we are writing to Senator Simpson to ask that he introduce the bill in the Senate and cooperate with us in securing its early passage.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this matter, which means a great deal in our opinion to the masses of the people in Bessemer in getting cheap electrical current and assuring you of our appreciation of your cooperation with us on Wednesday, we are,

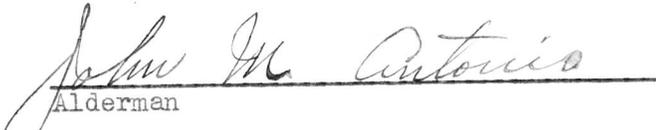
Yours very truly,



President of City Council



Alderman



Alderman

SWW/fg

(Inclosure)