



Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013

To: Rep. Steve Huebert, Chairman  
House Committee on Local Government

Subject: Support for HB 2035 – Certification of Contractors

Chairman Huebert, members of the House Committee on Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of HB 2035. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders and with more than 2,000 members across the state, KBIA plays a crucial role in providing housing for Kansas citizens.

Within our association we work with every facet of the residential home construction industry. With increasing and ever-changing federal regulations, continuing education and new emerging technologies it can be confusing for our members to remain current on the standards and requirements that they, and their subcontractors, must meet on a daily basis. HB 2035 shifts the statutory definition on certification for HVAC, plumbing and electrical contractors to reflect the current education practices within the industry. The current statutory definition calls for 240 hours of classroom training, however nationwide the industry has shifted away from the classroom hours requirement and moved to a “program hours” standard.

While this seems like a very small issue, we believe it is an important cleanup as it can create confusion within the industry, and for the consumer as they try to determine whether the contractor they are hiring has the appropriate amount of education and training. We believe that consistency, both within the industry and for the sake of the consumer is an important transparency measure for Kansas.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and I’m happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

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