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**To: House Local Government Committee**

**From: Jason A. Gage, City Manager, City of Salina**

**Subject: HB 2404 Testimony in Support**

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**Request**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2404. We are very appreciative of your time to consider this written testimony. With that said, we respectfully request that you support the passage of HB 2404.

**Bill Summary**

For properties deemed “abandoned”, this bill will give cities of all sizes an effective tool to relieve neighborhoods of blight resulting from these properties.

**Reasons for Our Support**

We believe this bill is good for Salina and other Kansas communities for the following reasons:

- Salina has many abandoned properties that have been allowed to decay over time. These properties create a dangerous condition for youth and result in a blighted impact to otherwise strong neighborhoods.
- Abandoned properties are most often the result of an absent owner’s conscious desire to avoid maintenance responsibility. Our experience has shown that these owners often ignore numerous requests to repair their properties or choose not to receive these notices. This bill provides a more than adequate notice process.
- Cities like Salina have very few tools to address the dangers and blight caused by abandoned properties. Often times, nearby property owners become frustrated by the City’s inability to address the problem and become dismayed with their neighborhood.
- HB 2404 provides a reasonable application of a city’s authority to address abandoned properties without the use of demolition, giving Kansas cities a proper tool to preserve core neighborhoods.

**Requested Action**

This bill has the potential to truly preserve Salina’s neighborhoods and those in other Kansas communities. As a result, we respectfully request that you support HB 2404, with or without our suggested amendments.

Thank you for considering our legislative request!