



## EL DORADO

January 23, 2017

Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: SB 31 Testimony in Support

The City of El Dorado wishes to express its support for Senate Bill 31 concerning abandoned and blighted properties. This bill, a result of negotiations between the Kansas League of Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties and other interested groups, is important to cities because it provides opportunity to deal with non-responsive property owners and it will also enable us to rehabilitate properties where we are able.

Housing is one of the biggest concerns for the City of El Dorado, and costly efforts to combat “blight,” are ongoing. There are nearly 400 vacant properties in the City; many of which meet the definition of “abandoned,” as defined by the State of Kansas. Attached are photos of four such properties, within city limits that meet this criteria. These properties are in various states of disrepair including roofing issues, broken windows, and porches that are beyond repairable condition. Unfortunately, many other properties in El Dorado have similar characteristics.

Abandoned and “blighted” properties decrease property values, reduce economic and community development opportunities and deter from best practices of land use. For all these reasons, your support for SB 31 is strongly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Rickard', is positioned above the typed name.

Scott Rickard  
Acting City Manager  
City of El Dorado, KS

Encl: 1



Vacant for 10 Years



Vacant for 10 Years



Vacant for 1 Year



Vacant for 5 Years