



**House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee  
Testimony of House Bill 2703  
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony supporting House Bill 2703.

HB2703 would ensure that municipalities would not be able to ban commonly used energy sources and construction materials from being utilized in residential and commercial applications. Unfortunately, we have seen a disturbing increase in this type of behavior by municipalities in the last couple of years. This is concerning for several reasons.

When groups, with varied motives and financial interests, attempt to eliminate choice in building materials and energy sources at the local level, the cost of construction and consumer expense is needlessly increased. For every \$1,000 of increased construction costs, 3,545 potential home buyers are priced out of the housing market. The limiting of energy choices for consumers, both residential and commercial, can have a negative impact on the monthly housing expenses for homeowners and monthly overhead for business owners.

The Kansas Chamber wants to ensure that the cost of doing business in Kansas is reasonable and encourages Kansans to remain and prosper in our state. We also want to be attractive to those looking to grow their businesses here. Protecting choice and affordable energy options and how people choose to build their homes and businesses is important to the future growth and investment in our state.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony supporting HB2703 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.