



March 15, 2022

Representative Troy Waymaster
Chairperson
House Appropriations Committee
Kansas Capital Building
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS. 66612

Chairperson Waymaster and Committee Members:

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) is the membership organization for the economic development professionals across the State of Kansas. We represent rural and urban communities from border to border. When asking our membership what the number one economic development issue in Kansas is the answer is housing. In communities doing well with their local economy it is housing. In communities doing poorly it is housing.

On Tuesday, March 15 at 9:00 AM your committee is hearing from a coalition of Kansans speaking about the possible addition of \$50 million to the KHRC trust fund. The request is to move these funds from two SPARK committees or from the state budget. KEDA supports adding additional funding to the KHRC budget. Their recent statewide housing study has helped show the issues facing all parts of Kansas.

As Kansas industries attempt to grow their workforce and expand their companies, they are impacted by the need for more and better housing across the State of Kansas. This issue impacts their ability to attract employees to their facilities.

We look forward to seeing this injection of funding to KHRC for housing. We will support future bills that provide this capital for KHRC. Please call on KEDA and its members to answer any questions you or your committee have about this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Mitchell Robinson".

1st Vice President / Co-Chairman
Legislative Committee, KEDA
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