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To: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: February 16, 2022

Re: Written Only Testimony in Support of HB 2701

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of policies outlined in HB 2701. As REALTORS®, we reaffirm the goal of “a decent home and a suitable living environment for every family.” REALTORS® are committed to helping every single Kansan who so desires to realize the America Dream of homeownership. The policies included in HB 2701 provide additional options for Kansans trying to solve our state’s housing issues.

KAR represents over 11,000 members involved in residential, commercial and agricultural real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state’s property owners for more than 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state’s economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

Increasing access to homeownership is a goal of REALTORS® and it should be a goal for the State of Kansas. Simply put, we need more housing to support the needs of our current and future workforce. A shortage of quality housing is an undeniable barrier to economic growth and development in any community. During the pandemic, sales of existing homes in most areas of the state have been fairly robust, but there exists an underlying issue with the market involving supply. The state’s housing shortage exists at nearly all price segments and has numerous causes.

HB 2701 makes important changes to the highly effective Rural Housing Incentive District Act by allowing its use in economically distressed urban areas. KAR requests that the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee act on this bill favorably.