



Date: Feburary 14, 2022

To: House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development
Representative Jim Kelly, Chairman

From: Alex Orel, Senior Vice President – Government Relations
Kansas Bankers Association

Re: Verbal Proponent Testimony – HB 2569

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Alex Orel providing proponent testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA). The KBA was organized in 1887, and our membership includes 99% of the 220 banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 20 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 22,000 Kansans that provide financial services in every county across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

"Together, we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony today in support of HB 2569, which would enact the Historic Kansas Act to incentivize investment in buildings older than 50 years, including houses, barns, and ag facilities. This legislation creates an appealing economic incentive for developers and investors outside of the urban centers of Kanas for the project to which to invest and help spur economic activity in communities where activity isn't as strong. It would also allow for additional capital to be available for development and to be incentivized at the bank level for many of these main streets and rural communities.

The KBA recognizes that there needs to be a mix of policies that will encourage the improvement of older buildings and existing houses to generate new construction and incentivize financial investment in the communities and for the customers our bankers serve, and we do believe HB 2569 does that and could be another tool in that toolbox.

As stated above, our mission at the KBA is to support the banking industry to benefit the communities and customers they serve. We support HB 2569 as means of accomplishing that mission. Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you, and if you or the committee have questions or require additional information, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at aorel@ksbankers.com or (785) 232-3444.