



February 7, 2020

In Person Testimony in Support of SB 375

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On behalf of the coalition of Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Growers Association, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, and Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Senator Rob Olson, Chairperson

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Allie Devine, and I am presenting comments on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Growers Association, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower Electric), and Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center (EICI). (Hereafter referred to as "Coalition")

Two years ago, the Coalition commissioned a study to identify barriers to agribusiness expansion in rural Kansas. We gathered substantial information from many sources including economic development professionals, national site selectors, builders, financial institutions, businesses, and Kansas community leaders.

Our study identified a lack of housing as one of the main barriers to economic growth in rural areas. From our discussions with professionals within the building and finance communities, we believe that SB 375 may provide needed incentives for investors and developers to build in rural communities.

In addition to our support for SB 375, our coalition requests your support for the transfer of \$50 million to the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation (KHRC) for targeted assistance to rural housing projects. The Corporation, by statute, is given flexible powers they use to tailor programs to meet the unique needs of Kansas communities. We think the programs of KHRC, and the tax credits offered by SB 375 can work together to meet rural housing needs.

We made a presentation on our request to the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development and will make a presentation to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget. We will also be contacting members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and subcommittees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.