



February 8, 2023

Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Senator Jeff Longbine, Chair

Testimony in support of SB 37

From:

Allie Devine representing Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Growers Association

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this hearing on SB 37.

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")

Three 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. At about the same time the Kansas Housing Assessment made similar findings.

Last year our groups worked with approximately 12-15 other organizations to advocate for increased funding for housing. We are grateful for the Legislature's support for those requests and are anxious to see the outcomes and benefits to Kansas communities.

Our coalition supported a number of tax bills last year to provide incentives for developers and builders to grow all Kansas communities. SB 37 is another tool to incentivize investment in Kansas. We support the bill, ask that you pass it.

Thank you.