

February 03, 2025

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2119 – Preservation of the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

As the **past president and chairman of the board for the Kansas Housing Association** and a **current partner at BRC**, I have spent years working on housing tax credit developments across Kansas and the Midwest developing thousands of affordable housing units. I have seen firsthand how the affordable housing tax credit program has been a crucial tool in ensuring that families, seniors, and individuals have access to quality, affordable housing, especially in rural areas. These developments not only provide essential housing but also drive economic growth, support small businesses, and revitalize communities across our state.

I strongly oppose HB 2119, which proposes to eliminate the affordable housing tax credit program after **June 30, 2025**. This abrupt termination **jeopardizes developments that have already received a credit allocation**, including those currently under construction, as they may be unable to meet an arbitrary completion deadline of **June 25, 2025**. Such a measure would create widespread uncertainty and financial risk for developers, lenders, investors, contractors, suppliers, and countless small businesses that rely on this program to complete essential projects.

Furthermore, this bill **endangers existing communities undergoing rehabilitation**—putting current residents at risk of displacement while halting the development of future affordable housing across Kansas. Without the tax credit program, we lose a critical tool to address the housing shortages affecting families, seniors, and workforce populations across our state.

Given my long-standing experience in housing development and finance, I can confidently state that HB 2119, as written, would have **catastrophic consequences** for Kansas communities, businesses, and the state's overall economic stability. I urge the committee **not to advance this bill** and instead seek policies that support the continued development and preservation of affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and share insights from my experience in housing development across the Midwest.

Sincerely,



Brett Johnson

Past President & Chairman, Kansas Housing Association

Partner, BRC

