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To: House Taxation Committee
From: Mark Tomb, Vice President of Governmental Affairs
Date: 1/22/2025

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Property Tax Relief in HB 2011

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2011, legislation that reduces the Statewide School Property Tax Levy from 20 mills to 18.5 mills and sets up a process to make this property tax levy subject to revenue neutral reductions in future years.

KAR represents nearly 11,000 members involved in residential, agricultural, and commercial 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 attainable housing opportunities while protecting private property rights.

Regarding Property Taxes, the KAR Legislative Policy Statement includes the following:

REALTORS® believe that real estate is burdened with an excessive share of the constantly increasing cost of state and local government. While we realize the importance of many programs funded through property tax revenues, we believe tax revenues should be equitably collected from a variety of sources and encourage taxing jurisdictions to consider the negative impact to the housing market associated with any potential increase in property tax rates.

REALTORS® also believe in the importance of a low tax burden on Kansas businesses and families that will help keep our state competitive in the search for new economic development and job growth opportunities.

KAR has been among the strongest advocates for providing residential property tax relief by increasing the residential exemption on the Statewide School Levy. While those efforts have focused on residential property owners this legislation would provide broad based property tax relief to all property owners. It is also important to note that this legislation would decrease the state's dependence on property taxes but not the obligation to fully fund public schools.

In conclusion, KAR supports HB 2011 and other efforts to reduce the property tax obligations of Kansans. This is meaningful property tax relief and is worthy of support. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.