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SB 363 Testimony to Senate Commerce Committee

By: Jason A. Gage

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST:

I am sorry that I will not be available to personally testify on behalf of SB 363. I am confident that Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Director Dennis Lauver will represent the issue well and be able to answer any questions you may have.

I would like to communicate that the City of Salina is very supportive of your consideration to amend K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 12-5242 by supporting the passage of Senate Bill 363 for the following reasons:

- 1) The cost of housing has become a significant challenge for all communities and rural areas, regardless of size;
- 2) Salina, like other communities is experiencing significant increases in cost for housing for all income levels;
- 3) Housing cost challenges can result in significant community impacts, such as: reducing available income of residents that is needed for other necessary purposes, artificially creating an inefficient commuter-oriented environment; and increasing the difficulty of finding necessary labor for key business employment;
- 4) The additional financing options that are offered through the Rural Housing Incentive Act can provide a tool to local government that can be used to reduce the cost of housing for numerous housing types and income levels; and
- 5) In Salina, we believe we can use this tool in conjunction with our local home builders to stabilize costs and housing availability.

FINANCIAL AND/OR TAXING IMPLICATIONS:

We do not find that this item will have any negative financial or taxing impact on the State of Kansas, any other municipality, local homebuilders or homebuyers.

Thank you once again for taking the time to consider SB 363, which we believe to be a worthwhile statutory revision request that can result in tangible community benefit.