



League of Kansas Municipalities

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To: House Committee on Local Government

From: Larry R. Baer  
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Re: HB 2646  
Written Testimony in Support

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony in support of House Bill 2646 on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and our member cities.

HB 2646 would amend current law regarding dangerous and abandoned structures by including commercial real estate in the definition of abandoned property. Current law only refers to residential real estate. Because of recent and continued downturns in the economy cities are seeing more commercial properties falling into disrepair and standing vacant. These properties have a blighting effect upon surrounding properties and the potential to become dangerous structures as they deteriorate.

Cities have long had tools available to them to address these types of issues when residential property is involved, but they do not have any recourse on commercial real estate. HB 2646 would give cities the same ability to deal with abandoned and blighted commercial real estate as they now have when dealing with residential properties.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony in support of the proposed legislation.