



TO: Representative Steve Huebert, Chairman  
and Member of the House Local Government Committee

FROM: Martha Neu Smith, Executive Director  
Kansas Manufactured Housing Association

DATE: February 16, 2012

RE: HB 2544 – Relating to abandoned property and qualifications thereof

Chairman Huebert and Members of the House Local Government Committee, my name is Martha Neu Smith and I am the executive director of the Kansas Manufactured Housing Association (KMHA). KMHA is a statewide trade association representing all facets of the manufactured and modular housing industries (manufacturers, retail centers, manufactured home community owners and operators, service and supplier companies, finance and insurance companies and transport companies) and I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments opposing HB 2544.

First, KMHA would like to say that we admire Representative Frownfelter’s commitment to his district and his efforts to find ways to improve neighborhoods; however, we have a concern with the change proposed in HB 2544. By changing the definition of abandoned property to *mean any residential real estate for which taxes are delinquent for the preceding two years OR which as been unoccupied continuously by persons legally in possession for the preceding 120 days*, would include any homeowner that has paid his taxes but has just been away from his/her property for 120 days. This could include retirees that go south for the winter and come back to Kansas in the spring.

It is unclear to KMHA as to what situation this bill was meant to address, however, the way it is currently written it seems to place a lot of homeowners in jeopardy of having their property declared “abandoned” and KMHA does not believe that was the intent.

Thank you for your consideration of our concern.