



League of Kansas Municipalities

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Date: March 12, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Local Government

From: Larry R. Baer  
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Re: HB 2646  
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 abandoned structures by including commercial real estate in the definition of abandoned property. Current law only refers to residential real estate.

K.S.A. 12-1750, *et seq.*, address two type of situations, dangerous and unsafe structures and abandoned properties. The provisions relating to dangerous and unsafe structures, where the city has the authority to issue a remove or repair order, has long been applicable to all types of properties. However, the provisions relating to abandoned properties relate only to residential properties.

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.