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Testimony in Support of SB 84

Chairperson Lynn and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce:

The Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to express support for Senate Bill 84. There has been longstanding interest among community leaders to streamline and expedite the process for local governments and neighborhood organizations to deal with the growing blight of abandoned, nuisance and foreclosed housing, as well as commercial dwellings.

We believe this measure will be of additional assistance in many communities across the state, as the problem is clearly not limited to urban areas. Numerous lawmakers were given an opportunity to hear about this growing problem during an interim study hearing last fall. That session was instrumental in advancing awareness among your colleagues as to the negative impact abandoned property has on communities throughout Kansas.

We applaud the efforts of Rep. Stan Frownfelter, among others, who have worked tenaciously to craft this measure and bring stakeholders together to better understand issues and round blocks to address abandoned property. This measure incorporates important safeguards for property owners, yet is a major step forward in giving local units of government important additional tools to address the problem.

The Kansas City Kansas Chamber urges the committee to support SB 84 and appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony.