

City of Lansing 800 First Terrace Lansing, KS, 66043 www.lansing.ks.us

To: House Local Government Committee

From: Tim Vandall, City Administrator, City of Lansing

Subject: Testimony in Support of Abandoned Property Legislation

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to outline my support for legislation proposed to alleviate the impact of abandoned properties. Many communities throughout the State often see the negative impact of abandoned properties in our neighborhoods. Abandoned properties often create numerous code enforcement issues, such as overgrown vegetation, wildlife, and illegal dumping. Additionally, many of these abandoned structures increase calls for public safety due to illegal activities, drug issues, accidental fires, and vandalism. Finally, many of these abandoned homes negatively impact the property values, livability, and community pride in our neighborhoods.

On a personal level, Lansing regularly has at least 25,000 vehicles traveling through town every day along Kansas Highway 7, and we struggle with abandoned homes on our main corridor creating an eyesore and negative perception of certain neighborhoods. Any tools that local governments can have to help alleviate abandoned properties would be a great step forward for citizens throughout Kansas who live in an incorporated area.

I thank you all for your service to our great State, and if I can help to further answer any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tim Vandall City Administrator

City of Lansing

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