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To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: January 29, 2020

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 273

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today on behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® in support of **SB 273**. This legislation would allow taxpayers the option of attending board of tax appeals proceedings by methods of audio or video electronic communication.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® encourages government at all levels to utilize technology to improve government programs; ultimately reducing costs for both government and those that fund government services. **SB 273** recognizes that most taxpayers do not live right around the corner from the board of tax appeals and that significant costs can result from travel expenses and the time needed to drive to and from Topeka. It is important to note that this change would be voluntary, so individuals that want to attend in person may continue to do so.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® represents over 10,000 members involved in residential, agricultural and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for nearly 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

Conclusion

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® would urge members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee to support **SB 273**, which will improve the ability of taxpayers to interact with the board of tax appeals by providing an option to attend meetings by electronic means.