



Date: March 15, 2022

To: House Committee on Appropriations
Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair

From: Alex Orel, Senior Vice President – Government Relations
Kansas Bankers Association

Re: \$50 million appropriation to Kansas Housing Resource Corporation

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Alex Orel providing testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA). The KBA was organized in 1887, and our membership includes 99% of the 220 banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 20 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 22,000 Kansans that provide financial services in every county across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

"Together, we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve."

First, thank you for your willingness to hold this hearing and have the critical discussion surrounding a significant issue in our state that has long-term effects, the need for housing development. The KBA recognizes that there is a shortage of attainable housing for both low-income and moderate-income Kansans. A shortage of quality housing is an undeniable barrier to economic growth and development for any community, whether it be rural or urban. Bankers are committed to seeing that everyone who dreams of homeownership has that opportunity. At the direction of our members, the KBA supports policies that will encourage the improvement of existing houses, generate new construction, and incentivize financial investment in the communities and the customers our bankers serve.

We appreciate the coalition and other proponents for their work in studying barriers to expansion in Kansas, especially rural Kansas. We stand here in support of today's efforts for a \$50 million appropriation to the State Housing Trust Fund and the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation (KHRC). The KHRC has a long history of success in our communities and with our members across the state. This appropriation would give them the ability to enhance the current tools they already have, such as the Moderate-Income Housing (MIH) program, infrastructure development, and down payment assistance programs, to name a few. Enhancing these current tools will bring more housing development to rural Kansas, ultimately leading to more economic growth and helping sustain our rural Kansas communities.



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