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**Proponent Testimony
Before the House Committee on Appropriations
State Housing Trust Fund
March 15, 2022**

Chairman Waymaster and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matt Gillam and I am President of the Kansas Housing Association, Inc. The Kansas Housing Association (KHA) is an alliance of for-profit and non-profit developers, builders, businesses, financial institutions, public housing associations, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, service providers, individuals and other organizations to belong and work to strengthen the state's economic vitality by making safe, decent, affordable housing available throughout Kansas. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of an additional appropriation for housing efforts in Kansas.

Increasing and preserving the supply of affordable housing in Kansas is a fundamental mission of our members.

Housing is central to economic development and job expansion. The recent statewide housing assessment completed in Kansas, demonstrates the true need for additional housing development in our State, a demand for housing that cannot be met without both public and private investment.

The state's housing shortage has numerous causes, both in rural and urban areas, and therefore cannot be solved with a one-size-fits-all approach. Kansas must be flexible, thinking outside the box by creating new unique tools and augmenting existing resources for communities to advance and diversify housing of all types - affordable, workforce, moderate income, single family, multi-family and senior housing. Other legislative measures currently under consideration this session will also enhance housing activities and should be strongly and thoughtfully considered as well.

Kansas homeowners and tenants have experienced intensified challenges to finding housing and communities can struggle to meet the comprehensive needs for development. Significant and consistent funding are required to adequately address shortage areas and created stability in housing.

The State Housing Trust Fund was established to assist with general housing needs across the state. The Trust Funds permit communities to transform existing properties to preserve and increase the availability of housing. Many of the communities our members work with on housing development issues utilize the housing programs within the State Housing Trust Fund to facilitate the creation of affordable housing opportunities.

These programs encourage local participation, leverage investments and can build momentum to respond to critical housing issues, important step in resolving our housing crisis in Kansas.

The Kansas Housing Association urges you to make additional appropriations for housing programs.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present these remarks to the Committee.

Matt Gillam

Kansas Housing Association, Inc.