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To: House Federal and State Affairs

From: John Goodyear, General Counsel

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RE: Neutral Testimony on SB 181 – Written Only

I want to thank Chairman Barker and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral testimony today regarding SB 181.

SB 181 would establish the Elevator Safety Act, enacting statewide standards for elevator inspection, installation, and repair. Our reason for submitting testimony today is to call the attention of the Committee to a section of the bill that is crucial to local government entities. Several sections of the bill make it clear that nothing in the act will restrict local government entities from enacting or continuing to enforce higher local standards through their home rule authority and certifying or licensing those individuals qualified to meet those standards.

When a similar bill was introduced in the 2015-2016 biennium, the League and our member cities opposed that bill because it prevented this measure of local control. In HB 2356 from that session, cities and counties were unable to pass or enforce more stringent regulations. SB 181 preserves the important power of local governments to enact and maintain stricter standards that reflect the needs and wants of their communities. This important provision makes this a better attempt at codifying industry standards than those brought in earlier sessions and is the reason for the shift in our position.

If the Committee chooses to take action on SB 181, the League would respectfully ask that these sections of the bill remain unchanged, thus preserving to local government entities the ability to make and enforce more stringent standards for elevator safety if they choose to do so.