



**Testimony to Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Proponent Testimony on SB375
Monday, February 07, 2022
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) supports SB375 that creates the Kansas Housing Investor Credit Act to help facilitate investment in suitable housing that will support the growth of communities that lack adequate housing by attracting new employees, residents, and families and would support the development and expansion of businesses that creates jobs and wealth. The KC Chamber, representing nearly 2,000 businesses (40% of which are in Kansas), supports innovative strategies that improve access to safe, quality, healthy, affordable workforce housing. The KC Chamber also supports strategies that attract and retain talent in the State of Kansas and the Kansas City area and believes housing is a critical component to that.

In the last few years, the State of Kansas and the Kansas City area, much like the rest of the country, has experienced fast-rising housing costs while housing inventory has remained stagnant or fallen behind on rising demand. This has had a tremendous impact on homeowners, potential homeowners, renters and folks looking to move to the Kansas City area and Kansas. An important component to workforce attraction and retention is cost of living and, as a part of that, affordability of housing. At a time when Kansas is competing with other states to attract businesses and the state is looking at passing one of its largest economic incentives packages to attract a mega-project now or down the road, it is vital that we look at opportunities to spur investment in housing in our urban and rural communities. This bill can be just one more tool in the toolbox to help spur job creation and attract and/or retain workers for Kansas businesses.

The KC Chamber supports quality and affordable housing and housing developments for our underserved communities like urban and rural Kansas. The KC Chamber supports SB375 and urges the committee's support for the bill as well.

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