

Date of Testimony: February 7, 2022

Bill Number: Senate Bill 376

Disposition: Proponent

Testimony: Written

Conferee: Jonathon Goering, 316.305.2769, jonathon@thriveallencounty.org

Name of Interest: Jonathon Goering, Thrive Allen County



February 4, 2022

Jonathon Goering
Economic Development
Thrive Allen County
9 S. Jefferson Ave
Iola, KS 66749

Re: Senate Bill 376 Testimony

To the Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 376. My role as the economic development leader for Allen County means I am deeply committed to solving the county's housing challenges.

Allen County communities have long struggled to meet the housing demands of their residents for numerous reasons including a lack of builders, the price of building materials, limited comparable sales, and a meager supply of land ready for housing development. However, one option for rural communities is infill development. Many have an abundance of lots that sit empty, costing cities thousands of dollars in lost utility and tax revenues annually.

This bill would drive infill development by expanding the Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) program to include housing construction on existing lots. The best interests of communities would be served in many ways, one of the most critical being that infill housing utilizes existing utilities. Streets, water and sewer lines, and other components would not need to be constructed, saving developers and builders these costly expenses.

I ask the Committee on Federal and State Affairs to support Senate Bill 376. It will assist rural Kansas communities in their efforts to solve housing issues by incentivizing one of their key assets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathon Goering". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Jonathon Goering
Economic Development
Thrive Allen County