February 7, 2020

In Person Testimony in Support of SB 376

Allie Devine, Devine, Donley, & Murray LLC (785-640-9992 allie@devineanddonley.com)

On behalf of the coalition of Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Growers Association, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, and Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Senator Rob Olson, Chairperson

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Allie Devine, and I am presenting comments on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Growers Association, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower Electric), and Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center (EICI). (Hereafter referred to as "Coalition")

Two years ago, the Coalition commissioned a study to identify barriers to agribusiness expansion in rural Kansas. We gathered substantial information from many sources including economic development professionals, national site selectors, builders, financial institutions, businesses, and Kansas community leaders.

Our study identified a lack of housing as one of the main barriers to economic growth in rural areas. We recognize the need for housing throughout rural and urban areas of Kansas. We support SB 376 as another tool to increase investment in housing. We support the programs of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and its work to provide housing assistance in rural and urban areas. The Corporation, by statute, is given flexible powers they use to tailor programs to meet the unique needs of Kansas communities. As mentioned previously we ask for your assistance to transfer $50 million to the KHRC for targeted assistance to rural housing projects.

We made a presentation on our request to the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development and will make a presentation to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget. We will also be contacting members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and subcommittees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.