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To: Senate Utilities Committee  
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs  
Date: January 21, 2021

Re: Written Testimony Supporting SB 24

Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today on behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® in support of **SB 24**. This legislation would reinforce the ability of home builders and ultimately consumers to choose appropriate energy solutions based on individual preference, cost or even availability.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® represents over 10,000 members involved in residential, agricultural and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

Allowing a patchwork of different local energy standards generally creates additional costs and limits the choices of consumers. This is particularly an issue in the area of affordable housing where it is likely that construction and energy costs would increase where local energy mandates exist. To encourage affordable housing, it is important to have consistency from one jurisdiction to the next in this policy area.

#### **Conclusion**

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® would urge members of the Senate Utilities Committee to support **SB 24**, which provides consumers with energy choices