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To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: February 13, 2024

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 480

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 480. This legislation would allow the option of conducting hearings in the Small Claims and Expedited Hearings Division of the Board of Tax Appeals remotely by utilizing video conferencing technology.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® encourages government at all levels to utilize technology to improve government programs; ultimately reducing costs for both government and those that fund government services. SB 480 recognizes that taxpayers and the State of Kansas incur costs for travel, even if that travel is within a home county or to an adjacent county as provided for in current law.

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® represents over 11,000 members involved in residential, agricultural and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for over 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 attainable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

Conclusion

The Kansas Association of REALTORS® would urge members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee to support SB 480, which will allow for a more cost effective and convenient alternative to in person hearings.