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To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: 2/14/2024

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 482

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 482, legislation that provides that county clerks are not required to send revenue neutral rate notices to property owners of exempt property.

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 more than 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.

Regarding taxation, the KAR Legislative Policy Statement states:

As citizens, REALTORS® realize the importance that many government programs play in creating a prosperous economic environment and quality of life for Kansas citizens. However, we join other citizens who have a continuing concern with the increasing cost of government programs and the overlapping of services and associated increase in costs among the local, state and federal government. Accordingly, we urge local and state governments to take immediate steps to eliminate redundant and duplicative programs and services, eliminate wasteful spending on unnecessary items and reduce the increasing burden of state and local taxation. Furthermore, REALTORS® support policies that give citizens a greater voice in decisions impacting their tax burden. As such, government leaders should put calls for increases in revenue to a public vote.

REALTORS® believe that eliminating unnecessary spending is a critical component of reducing the burden of taxation. KAR supports legislation such as SB 482 because by not sending additional revenue neutral notices to those whose property is exempt, there is a reduction of spending that will come as a result.

In conclusion, KAR supports the elimination of unnecessary expenses provided by SB 482. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.