



Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013

To: Rep. Richard Carlson, Chairman
House Committee on Taxation

Subject: Support for HB 2047 – Kansas Property Tax Transparency Act

Chairman Carlson and members of the House Committee on Taxation, my name is Wess Galyon, I am the President/CEO of the Wichita Area Builders Association and a member of the Kansas Building Industry Association. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of HB 2212. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders and with more than 2,000 members across the state the Association plays a crucial role in providing housing for Kansas citizens.

Over the past 15 years the property tax burden in Kansas has increased at an alarming rate and this has placed a significant burden on Kansas homeowners. This has a particular disadvantage for first time homebuyers, senior citizens and other Kansans on a fixed income as increased valuations make it difficult for them to remain in their homes. As the 2012 Kansas legislature discusses potential tax revisions in an effort to encourage additional growth and economic development, we encourage you to keep in mind the impact of property taxes on working class families.

We believe HB 2212 represents an appropriate balance in providing transparency and accountability to local property owners while still allowing local taxing authorities to generate the revenue needed to provide essential services. Once again, thank you for your time and we urge your support of the bill.

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