



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Affiliated With



**National
Association
of Home
Builders**

600 EAST 103RD STREET • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64131-4300 • (816) 942-8800 • FAX (816) 942-8367 • www.kchba.org

February 19, 2018

Chairman Mason, and Members of the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2741. The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City is proud to be the voice of the local housing industry. Comprising approximately 750 member companies, the HBA represents an industry that supports over 20,000 local jobs and contributes more than \$1.5 billion to both short and long-term economic growth in the region.

The Home Builders Association greatly values our relationships with local governments, and HB 2741 grants the Office of the State Fire Marshal broad authority over the local construction and trade codes that have long been adopted and modified by local governments in Kansas. KCHBA works well with the local municipalities in the greater Kansas City area. We cooperate together to adopt codes and code amendments that work best for each city. **It's rare that a "one size fits all" national code works perfectly for each local city or county.**

House Bill 2741 also grants the fire marshal code authority over all residential housing in Kansas, a significant change from current law.

Local code adoption allows cities not only to customize their code enforcement but promotes a healthy competition between the entities that allows them to offer a variety of incentives to build and develop in their area. We share the common goals of promoting new economic growth, homeownership, affordable housing and strong communities and want to ensure that the current system stays in place.

The HBA has a long-standing policy that code adoption and enforcement is best addressed at the local level. Our current relationship with local municipalities works to the benefit of both builders and local communities. We respectfully ask you keep this in mind and urge you to oppose House Bill 2741 in its current form and at a minimum encourage the committee to strike Section 20 from the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josh Clark
Executive Vice President
Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City