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To: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs
Date: February 19, 2020

Re: Written Testimony Regarding HB 2703

Chairman Tarwater and members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today on behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® in support of **HB 2703.** This legislation would reinforce the importance and consistency of national building and construction codes by preventing stricter standards from being applied at the local level.

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 nearly 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.

Those that work in the residential home construction industry generally work in multiple jurisdictions which creates challenges when dealing with variations in nationally agreed upon standards from one city to the next. Allowing a patchwork of different local standards generally creates additional compliance costs. This is particularly an issue in the area of affordable housing. To encourage affordable housing, it is important to have affordable and consistent housing and building codes.

Conclusion
The Kansas Association of REALTORS® would urge members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee to support **SB 2703**, which provides consistency in building and construction codes by removing the ability of local governments to create stricter standards.