



**Date:** Feburary 7, 2022

**To:** Senate Committee on Federal and State Affiars  
Senator Rob Olson, Chairman

**From:** Alex Orel, Senior Vice President – Government Relations  
Kansas Bankers Association

**Re:** Verbal Proponent Testimony – SB 375

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Alex Orel providing proponent testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA). The KBA was organized in 1887 and our membership includes 99% of the 220 banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 20 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 22,000 Kansans that provide financial services in every county across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

*"Together, we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve."*

The KBA recognizes that there is a shortage of attainable housing for both low-income and moderate-income Kansans. A shortage of quality housing is an undeniable barrier to economic growth and development for any community whether it be rural or urban. Bankers are committed to seeing that everyone with the dream of homeownership has that opportunity. At the direction of our members, the KBA supports policies that will encourage improvement of existing houses, generate new construction, and incentivize financial investment in the communities and for the customers our bankers serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony today in support of SB 375, which would enact the Kansas Housing Investor Credit Act to incentizie investment in housing to support the growth of Kansas communities. This bill would allow a qualified investor to receive a 30% transferable tax credit for qualified housing projects with that credit capped at \$30,000 per residential unit. The tax credits issued up by the Department of Commerce will be capped at \$18 million per fiscal year.

We view this bill as another tool in the tool box to help our communities grow by making housing more attainable which will then attract new residents, businesses, and jobs to all parts of our state.

As stated above, our mission at the KBA is to support the banking industry to benefit the communities and customers they serve. We support SB 375 as means of accomplishing that mission. Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you and if you or the committee have questions or require additional information, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [aorel@ksbankers.com](mailto:aorel@ksbankers.com) or (785) 232-3444.