

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

I'm Wess Galyon, President/CEO of the Wichita Area Builders Association located in Wichita, Kansas. Our Association was established in 1951, has a current membership of 1270. Our members are involved, as are we with them, in all types of residential and light construction and land development in the counties of Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler, Sumner, Cowley, Harper, and Kingman.

I am here today on behalf of the members of our Association to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 120. The Bill proposes to change what is currently required of new home builders in terms of the efficiency level of products used in construction and how, and when, that information must be disclosed to prospective purchasers. Additionally, it transfers the authority to decide what must be done and disclosed by builders to the Kansas Energy Office of the Kansas Corporation Commission. We believe this authority and responsibility is not in keeping with the mission of the KCC. We feel it is better left codified in state statute.

As existing products are changed and made better, and new products introduced into the market place, builders working in conjunction with their trade partners are constantly evaluating what products work best together and do this in consideration of the house as "whole house system". Energy efficiency is important to homeowners but so is flexibility in design, structural integrity, indoor air quality, and other matters that buyers want and deserve to have addressed. And this must all be done with the goal of making the home as affordable as possible.

It is important to note that building and trades codes relating to what is built in various jurisdictions are reviewed every three years and adopted under home rule authority. We support the continuation of that so that local concerns are addressed at local jurisdictional levels with people in our industry and those in code enforcement addressing mutual concerns and making determinations as to what should be required.

We support the current provisions contained within the International Energy Conservation Code or International Residential Code which are essentially the same. Or, continuing to allow builders to disclose the energy efficiency of products used in the home to prospective purchasers as presently allowed.