

**TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON UTILITIES**

TO: Senator Jay Emler, Chairman  
And Members of the Committee

FROM: Martha Neu Smith, Executive Director  
Kansas Manufactured Housing Association

DATE: February 14, 2007

RE: HB 2036 - Thermal Standards Disclosure

Chairman Emler and Members of the Committee, my name is Martha Neu Smith and I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Manufactured Housing Association (KMHA). KMHA is a statewide trade association, which represents all facets of the manufactured housing industry (i.e. manufacturers, retailers, community owners and operators, finance and insurance companies, service and suppliers and transport companies) and the modular housing industry (i.e. manufacturers and retailers). I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2036.

My comments today address the position of the Modular Housing Industry, the Manufactured Housing Industry is excluded from this statute because it is federally regulated by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act which is a federal preemptive code that includes energy standards and consumer notification, however, the statutes in HB 2036 are applicable to modular housing.

The Modular Housing Industry supports HB 2036 - Energy Efficiency Disclosure for all new homebuyers. The Disclosure form has been revised to provide the homebuyer with more information about energy conservation codes. It also explains that to have an Energy Star home, the home must be tested by an accredited provider. In addition, HB 2036 leaves the Disclosure form in statute, but provides blanks for the builder to fill-in appropriate values and the blanks will also accommodate both of Kansas' climate zone numbers. Not to mention, when the national codes are updated no statutory change will be required.

The time the Disclosure is to be provided has also been changed; HB 2036 requires that the Energy Efficiency Disclosure is to be provided to the prospective buyer prior to signing a contract for purchase and prior to closing if there have been any changes and upon any request. This change provides the potential homebuyer with the information they need to make an informed decision prior to being bound by a contract for purchase.

HB 2036 is the result of a compromise between the interested parties and it passed the House 117/7.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and KMHA would ask for your support of HB 2036.