

Scot Kibbe Vice President, State Government Relations 11407 Jim Thorpe Lane Austin, Texas 78748

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Nick Hoheisel Chair, House Comittee on Financial Institutions and Pensions 300 W. 10th, Room 276-W Topeka, KS 66612

RE: NEUTRAL POSITION ON HB 2436, ESG Standards in Public Contracts and Investments– WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Hoheisel and members of the Committee,

Representing nearly 60 percent of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers. APCIA represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association. In Kansas, APCIA's members write more than \$4.2 billion in property and casualty insurance premiums. We respectfully submit the following comments expressing our **NEUTRALITY ON HB 2436.**

We have concerns regarding politically or ideologically motivated regulation. But we also fear that that some attempts to counter that regulation can have unintended consequences that could make it harder for insurers to offer policies that meet the needs of Kansans.

HB 2436 regulates state investments rather than the actions of private companies. It is the state's responsibility how it chooses to invest taxpayer dollars. We also appreciate that in Section 4 of the bill, it states that "no state agency shall share or publish information, adopt policies, adopt rules and regulations or issue guidelines for purposes of environmental, social and governance criteria that restrict the ability of any industry to offer products or services." We believe that is a very important provision.

For these reasons, we are neutral on HB 2436 with its current language.



Please contact me directly at 512-461-1964 or via e-mail at <u>scot.kibbe@apcia.org</u> or APCIA's local counsels Larrie Ann Brown at (785) 640-2747 via e-mail at <u>larrieannbrown@gmail.com</u> and Brad Smoot at 785-224-1200 or via e-mail at <u>bradsmoot@smootlawoffice.com</u> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Scot Kibbe Vice President, State Government Relations