



Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 34

Paul T. Davis

On behalf of the

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee

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Good morning Chairman Hoheisel and Members of the Committee.

I am Paul Davis, lobbyist for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas ("the UG"), and I am pleased to submit written testimony in support to Senate Bill 34. The UG is the only consolidated city/county government in the State of Kansas. One of our top priorities is the creation of more affordable housing units. This is problem in Wyandotte County just as it is in our parts of the state.

This proposed legislation would expand the use and availability of rural housing incentive districts to urban communities with a population of 60,000 or more. Cities would not be able to designate more than 100 units as for-sale or for-rent units in one year. They would also not be able to establish more than 50 units associated with a single project as for-sale or for-rent units within one year. Currently there are 12,000 vacant lots in Wyandotte County that the UG would like to see converted to homes.

Additionally, for-sale units can become for-rent units if not sold within six months following granting a certificate of occupancy. This proposal gives the governing body the power to designate for-sale and for-rent units for succeeding years. The bill would also expand the list of costs that may be paid for by proceeds of special obligations bonds such as renovation or construction of residential dwellings, multi-family units or buildings or other structures exclusively for residential use located on existing lots if either.

We anticipate that the Panasonic project and economic activity it will create in Northeast Kansas is going to make the demand for housing even greater. The passing of this bill would allow the UG to bring in more people to live in the county in for-sale or for-rent units which would address the county's shortage of affordable housing.

On behalf of the UG, I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony and we ask for your favorable action on Senate Bill 34.