



March 9, 2023

Chairwoman Erickson, and Members of the Senate Commerce committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of HB 2173. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) with eight local building associations and more than 2,000 members across the State of Kansas.

Many Kansas communities face a housing challenge. With the recent investments the Kansas Legislature has made in housing, particularly in the segment of workforce housing, we are seeing a slow but steady increase in new housing, and a blending of that with our existing housing. In recent years home builders have been faced with increased costs for materials, supply chain issues, rising interest rates and significant new federal initiatives aimed at electrification and environmental improvements.

In recent years KBIA and our affiliated local associations have encouraged the legislature and local communities to adopt an “all of the above” approach to building, from energy choices to structural materials. In this vein, by allowing both currently approved local refrigerants, as well as substitute refrigerants deemed safe by federal standards, it will allow communities to continue to modernize their housing stock, while allowing consumers a variety of products, all of which are approved federally.

KBIA believes HB 2173 provides the flexibility that will help continue to drive modernization and the orderly development of housing in our Kansas communities and urges you to recommend it favorable for passage.

Sean Miller
Kansas Building Industry Association