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There's No Place Like Home

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Date: March 10, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Commerce

From: City of Burlington

Re: Written Testimony only in Opposition to SB 505

The City of Burlington thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 505. As written this bill would preempt/eliminate all local residential codes and regulations associated with home-based work.

Everyone has a different definition for incidental, is it a simple sewing room, an online mailing business, a CPA office, a one chair hair saloon, all of which are normally acceptable for an unobtrusive residential home business. Under SB 505 it could entice residents to establish an automotive repair and paint shop, a machine shop, a welding shop which could flicker the neighbor's lights and damage computers and appliances. It would allow for the installation of axillary structures ignoring setbacks, easements, rights-of-way, and vehicle sight lines as well as multiplying safety concerns for the neighborhood.

SB 505 is another attempt by state government to infringe upon and restrict the municipal's home rule authority, provided in the Kansas Constitution over 50 years ago. Local governments are best prepared to address public policy issues associated with local designated residential areas. We can immediately address issues that arise which could impact the intended tranquility of a residential neighborhood. Residential zoning regulations are in place for a reason, they are there to provide the residents with the knowledge that their rights for a quiet, and safe environment are being preserved and not being infringed upon by external forces.

I hope you will consider the potential for the negative impact SB 505 will have on the local governing body's ability to serve their communities as they strive to enhance the quality of life for all the residents.

Thank you for all you do; however, I respectfully request that the committee not advance SB 505.