

To: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: John Goodyear, General Counsel

Date: February 7, 2022

RE: Proponent Testimony on SB 376 – Oral In Person Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Olson and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 376.

SB 376 is another bill brought to help address the housing problems that we are seeing in communities across our state. The bill creates additional funding streams for needed construction and renovations to residential dwellings across the state.

First, SB 376 will expand the Rural Housing Incentive District Act to allow cities and counties to use bond proceeds to fund the renovation or construction of residential structures on existing lots with existing infrastructure. This expansion will allow many cities to further invest in existing neighborhoods, utilizing resources already in place to expand a community's housing potential and restore residential structures that have fallen into disrepair.

The second piece of SB 376 would direct the transfer of \$20,000,000 to the state housing trust fund for the next two years. This significant investment by the state will be a real catalyst for growth in our cities and has the potential to make real progress in addressing a state-wide issue. As drafted, these loans or grants would be made available to all cities and counties in the state, directing that 75% of the transfer be used in rural communities and 25% be used in communities with a population of 60,000 or more. Lack of housing is an issue that is being faced by all cities in the state, and this loan program would be a tool available to any city willing and able to utilize it.

The League supports SB 376 and asks this Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.