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Senator Jeff Longbine
Chairman, Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
Room 546-S

February 7, 2023

Re: Senate Bill 34

Chairman Longbine,

I write on behalf of the City of Lawrence to provide testimony in support of SB 34.

This bill expands the number of cities that are authorized to form Housing Incentive Districts under the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive District Act by removing the original 60,000 population ceiling. SB34 also adds to the housing stock eligible for renovation or construction under the Act, adding in residential and multifamily housing.

Our City supports legislative measures that enable funding for economic development and growth. We rely on a stable and high quality workforce to deliver vital services. We need tools and funding that facilitate land development for affordable residential housing for our workforce. That is in short supply. The City of Lawrence sees SB 34 as providing the means to work with partners to use bond proceeds to realize the Lawrence City Commission's vision, detailed in our legislative priorities and strategic plan, for increasing development of and access to safe and affordable housing. In particular SB 34 opens opportunities to regenerate or repurpose existing lots. Additionally, the Incentive Districts will allow for site preparation and putting in place the necessary infrastructure.

The City of Lawrence supports SB 34 and requests the Committee recommend this bill favorably for passage.

Brandon McGuire
Assistant City Manager

cc Mayor and City Commission

