



Mark Tomb  
Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Kansas Association of REALTORS®  
3644 SW Burlingame Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66611  
785-414-5155  
mark@kansasrealtor.com

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee  
From: Mark Tomb, VP of Governmental Affairs  
Date: February 17, 2021

Re: Written Only Testimony in Support of HB 2268

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2268, which would provide for a rural home loan guarantee program for the construction or renovation of single-family homes in rural counties with fewer than 10,000 residents.

KAR represents over 10,000 members involved in residential, commercial and agricultural real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for 100 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

During the pandemic, sales of existing homes in most areas of the state have been fairly robust, but there exists an underlying issue with the market involving supply. The state's housing shortage has numerous causes and therefore will also not be solved by a one-size-fits-all approach. Multiple tools are needed to address varying situations. Tools and programs that work for urban areas may not be right for rural areas. In the context of these challenges, unique tools to unique situations should be explored to benefit the overall Kansas economy.

The legislation has the potential to increase home financing options in the most rural areas of the state. Recognizing the importance of private property ownership and the real estate market to economic growth, REALTORS® support the continuation and enhancement of governmental institutions that provide for increased mortgage financing availability for residential property. We encourage the government and private sector to continue to explore and develop sound financing products that make it possible for more citizens to realize the dream of property ownership.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2268. KAR requests that the House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee act on HB 2268 favorably.