

**House Higher Education Budget Committee  
Proponent Testimony of HB 2705**

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Good afternoon, Chair Howe and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2705. This legislative proposal pertains to the sale of property owned by Kansas State University in Riley County, Kansas.

The issue at hand concerns the K-State Housing and Dining Services Honors House, located off-campus and not contiguous to the University. Kansas State University seeks approval to sell this property as we are relocating the Honors House operations onto the main campus into a newly established scholarship community. This transition has attracted interest from external parties interested in acquiring the property currently located at 1930 College Heights Rd., Manhattan, Riley County, Kan.

The rationale behind this proposal is multifaceted. Foremost, the sale of this property would enable Kansas State University to address critical deferred maintenance issues in Moore Hall, a 50-year-old residence hall on campus. This hall, due to its higher occupancy capacity, accommodates a larger number of students and is in urgent need of repairs and upgrades.

From a fiscal and administrative standpoint, the proceeds from this sale would directly finance long-term deferred maintenance projects for K-State Housing and Dining Services, with a specific focus on Moore Hall among other residence halls. It's imperative to highlight that this proposal carries no fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Without enactment of this proposal, the Honors House property would continue to be underutilized by K-State Housing and Dining Services, necessitating the university to explore alternative funding sources for critical maintenance needs. Such a scenario is less than ideal, given the immediate opportunity to both improve student living conditions and utilize the property in a manner that benefits Kansas State University and its broader community.

The proposed legislation authorizes Kansas State University, with approval from the State Board of Regents, to convey all rights, title and interest in the specified real estate in Riley County. It ensures that the proceeds from the sale are deposited into an unrestricted use account of Kansas State University Housing and Dining Services, earmarking them for essential maintenance and upgrades.

In conclusion, this bill not only signifies a prudent use of university assets but also a strategic investment in the future of our student housing facilities. The ability to reinvest in our infrastructure is

crucial for maintaining a safe, supportive and conducive living and learning environment for our students.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I am available to answer any questions or provide further information as needed.