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House of Representatives

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Mr. Chairman and fellow Members of the House Committee on Taxation

Thank you for allowing HB 2074 a hearing today.

This bill reinstates the ability for home renters to claim a 15% income tax deduction based on the amount of rent paid when ad valorem taxes were levied in a given year. This tax deduction was part of the Kansas tax code until it became a casualty of the Brownback tax plan in 2013.

This will allow Kansans who are just starting out in life, or choose to rent rather than own homes, to be eligible for similar tax deductions allowed to those Kansans who own their homes. It would bring Kansas to be on par with neighboring states of Colorado and Missouri that allow a portion of rents paid to be deducted on state income taxes. This would allow our state to better compete in retaining our recent college graduates and those just entering the workforce here, rather than losing them to neighboring states.

The estimated cost of this deduction is under \$15 million per year and will give our state an additional tool in our economic development toolbox. I believe this is necessary legislation that should be reinstated given our state's population and workforce challenges.

Thank you for your consideration,

Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton
House District 19