

To: Senator Alley and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

From: American Institute of Architects, Kansas Chapter, Terry Humphrey, Executive Director

Re: Oral, In-Person Opposition to HB 2119

**Date:** March 6, 2025

Chairman Alley and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

I am Terry Humphrey, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects, Kansas Chapter. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of AIA Kansas in opposition to HB 2119 which eliminates the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit.

AIA and AIA Kansas have policies supporting public investment in affordable housing as an essential component of livable communities. Architects play a vital role in community building and housing development and are keenly aware of the need for housing in Kansas

Communities need quality housing to grow and thrive. Unfortunately, Kansas communities have a severe shortage of affordable, moderate-income, and market-rate housing. Kansas is in this position because too few homes are built annually to meet the demand.

The 2021 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment completed by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) found, in summary, that every community in Kansas lacks housing at every price point. In rural areas, 3,800-4,800 homes should be constructed annually to respond to housing demand.

The Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit, since its establishment in 2022, has funded 6,500 homes. Kansas has successfully leveraged state credits to match federal credits, doubling the public investment and virtually tripling the number of affordable housing units being built.

AIA Kansas opposes the elimination of the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit in HB 2119.