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To: Representative Adam Smith, Chairman
and Member of the House Rural Revitalization Committee

FROM: Martha Smith, Executive Director

DATE: February 11, 2020

RE: HB 2516 – First-time home buyer savings account act (Proponent, Written Only)

Chairman Smith and Members of the Rural Revitalization Committee, my name is Martha Smith and I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Manufactured Housing Association (KMHA). KMHA is a statewide trade association representing all facets of the manufactured and modular housing industries (manufacturers, retail centers, manufactured home community owners and operators, service and supplier companies, finance and insurance companies and transport companies) and I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 2516.

Manufactured housing is one of the only providers of unsubsidized affordable housing in today's market. The Industry provides affordable housing across the State including the rural areas in Kansas. With the rapidly rising housing costs and a corresponding rise in what is needed for a down payment, first-time homebuyers are caught short of being able to afford the five to twenty percent down payment required by lenders. A down payment is often the largest single payment a consumer makes in their lifetime and saving for it isn't easy. The association sees HB 2516 as a great way to help first-time homebuyers move toward homeownership without subsidizing a home purchase. This program would encourage saving for a home purchase by not taxing the interest earned on the first-time homebuyers' savings account.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written support for HB 2516.