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TO: Representative Emil Bergquist, Chairman
and Members of the House Local Government Committee

FROM: Martha Smith, Executive Director
Kansas Manufactured Housing Association

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: HB 2083 – Creating the Kansas vacant property act to prohibit municipalities
from imposing any fees or registration requirements on vacant property.
Proponent - Written Only

Chairman Bergquist and Members of the House Local Government 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 comments in support of HB 2083, which prohibits municipalities from imposing any fee or registration requirement on unoccupied residential or commercial property.

KMHA supports HB 2083, the association feels that local government's vacant property registration infringes on private property rights.

There are many reasons for a property to not be occupied such as a tenant leaving without giving notice; remodeling and repair of a structure; the inheritance process; lack of a buyer; lack of a tenant or just uncertainty of what the owners would like to do with the property. KMHA is of the opinion that it is still the right of the property owners to make the decision on how they want to occupy their property.

We do understand that in some cases the unoccupied property may not be kept in good condition; most local governments already have nuisance ordinances in place that address these issues. We do not feel that HB 2083 prohibits local government's ability to collect for costs to secure the property, if that is necessary.

In closing, KMHA would respectfully ask that you continue to protect property rights and support HB 2083.

Thank you.