



January 29, 2020

Chairman Johnson, and Members of the House Committee on Taxation, Happy “Kansas Day” and thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of HB 2005. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) with nine local building associations and more than 2,000 members across the State of Kansas.

HB 2005, as introduced, would allow Kansas tax filers to itemize on their state tax returns even if they elected to take the standard deduction for the purposes of their federal tax filings. We support this decoupling for the purposes of itemization. The ability to itemize mortgage interest deduction has existed since the inception of the income tax in the United States. To that end, KBIA and the NAHB have supported the mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions for the entirety of the organization’s existences. We have testified on these issues a number of times in recent years as the deduction was first phased down, and then ultimately restored as a part of changes in Kansas income tax policy.

KBIA believes that the mortgage interest deduction is a key component in the decision of families to determine whether they continue renting, or whether they purchase a home and establish roots in our Kansas communities. Because of this we believe it is important that Kansans are able to itemize on their state tax returns. The federal debates that ultimately led to the adoption of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017 shone a bright light on itemized deductions and at the end of the day the mortgage interest deduction and state and local property tax deductions were retained at the federal level.

On behalf of the home owners and KBIA members across the State of Kansas we urge the committee to support the ability of Kansas citizens to itemize at the state level even if they chose the standard deduction at the federal level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Miller  
Kansas Building Industry Association