

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Research Associate

Date: February 14, 2022

RE: Proponent Testimony to HB 2623 (Written Only)

Thank you to Chairman Kelly and Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2623.

The League is supportive of initiatives such as the Remote Worker Incentive Act which is an important economic development tool that can be used by Kansas municipalities. Small and large cities in Kansas are facing challenges when it comes to recruiting residents, workers, and businesses.

In the 2020 Census, 470 cities across Kansas decreased in population with the City of Hutchison seeing the greatest loss of 2,074. In addition, five cities' populations remained the same (Oak Hill, Waldo, Speed, Gove City, and Kanorado). Retaining our state's population and recruiting new residents has been a challenge for many years.

Economic development tools such as the Remote Worker Incentive Act may inspire individuals and families to remain in small communities, return or move to cities with a lower cost of living. The ability to work remotely has opened opportunities to work and live anywhere, and we encourage initiatives that support growing, vibrant, and healthy cities across Kansas.

We are supportive of economic development tools which enhance our Kansas municipalities and would urge the committee to pass HB 2623 out favorably for passage.