



2017 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The HBA's 2017 Kansas Legislative Agenda includes long-standing policy issues that are important to HBA members and key to a strong housing industry. The HBA's Government Affairs Committee will continue to monitor legislation and recommend policy positions as necessary.

TOP PRIORITIES

Taxes: The HBA opposes changes to state tax policy that adversely impact economic growth and homeownership, including efforts to eliminate the mortgage interest and property tax deductions. Additionally, the HBA opposes any change to the current sales tax exemption on labor services such as framing, siding, roofing, digging, excavating, as well as professional and design services.

Workforce Development: The HBA supports efforts to promote and enhance workforce education and training programs, and to identify funding opportunities to help the building industry recruit, train and retain its workers.

IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

Workers' Compensation Insurance: The HBA supports the requirement that all on-site employees in the residential construction industry are covered by workers' compensation insurance.

Fire Sprinklers in Residential Structures: Fire sprinklers in one and two family residences and townhomes should remain a consumer option. Currently no political jurisdiction is allowed to adopt mandatory fire sprinklers in their residential building code.

Licensing: The HBA opposes license and/or registration legislation on a statewide basis. The HBA believes licensure is best addressed at the local level.

Building Codes: The HBA opposes any legislation creating a uniform statewide building code or energy code.

Sustainable Building: The HBA supports initiatives to promote the use of sustainable building technology in residential construction. The HBA supports flexibility in guidelines and certification programs that include voluntary ANSI approved standards, such as the National Green Building Standard (ICC 700). ICC 700 is recognized as the only ANSI approved standard for residential construction of Green or Sustainable homes by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), ICC and ASHRAE.

Growth Management: The HBA opposes limits on new development, including impact fees, urban growth boundaries and excise taxes.

Education Funding: While recognizing the connection between economic development and quality education, the HBA supports funding based on actual costs, administrative consolidation and further expansion of local funding options.

Repeal Platting and Taxation Requirements: The HBA supports repealing the provisions of KSA 19-1207 implemented with Senate Bill 193(2011). The HBA opposes paying a tax before it is levied and the burdensome efforts associated with estimating, collecting and refunding the projected tax bill.

Immigration: The HBA urges the state to support the federal government in creating a new visa system whereby more immigrants can legally enter the residential construction workforce each year and be put on the path to temporary or permanent legal residency or citizenship.

Federal Regulation: The HBA urges local and state governments to join the HBA in supporting critical federal legislation, such as housing finance reform, and opposing federal regulation that adversely impacts the home building industry and hampers economic growth, such as the Waters of the U.S. rule, the Endangered Species Act, and other burdensome U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers regulations.

For more information, please visit www.kchba.org or call (816) 942-8800.