



TriCentury Bank
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Date: January 21, 2020
To: Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
From: L. Travis Hicks, CEO & Co-Chairman
TriCentury Bank De Soto, KS
Re: Support for Senate Bill 259
Sustain Local Access to Credit for Kansans

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Travis Hicks, the CEO of TriCentury Bank in De Soto, KS. We are an active community bank participating in commercial banking in small communities in the Kansas City area. Our banks are vital to the communities we serve. **I am writing to you in support of SB 259 as it will help to level the playing field in our communities and create opportunities for business lending in our markets and equal credit opportunities for every Kansas involved in business lending and for rural housing.**

Community banks from across Kansas are working collectively through the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA) to accomplish these three objectives through the passage of this legislation:

1. Revitalize rural communities;
2. Benefit borrowers; and
3. Sustain local access to credit.

This bill will benefit borrowers of all business credit – whether it be for agriculture or commercial purposes - as well as help Kansans access credit for housing in rural areas (population 2,500 or less) by allowing community banks the same favorable tax treatment on these loans that other lenders (including Farm Credit and credit unions) already have.

The prosperity of business – whether it be farmers and ranchers or small businesses – in every community is critical to the Kansas economy. Business customers should not be disadvantaged for choosing to do business with their local community bank. Assuring that community banks stay competitive with all other lenders will not only help businesses and those buying homes in rural Kansas by keeping the interest rates competitive, but it will help ensure that community bank leadership remains in the community for the long-term.

I respectfully request that when the Committee considers SB 259, they consider it favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

L. Travis Hicks
CEO & Co-Chairman
TriCentury Bank

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