



## Bank <sup>of</sup> the Prairie

**Date:** January 21, 2020

**To:** Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

**From:** Chris Donnelly  
Bank of the Prairie

**Re:** Support for Senate Bill 259  
Sustain Local Access to Credit for Kansans

**Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:**

Good afternoon Rob,

As you know, Bank of the Prairie has been helping small businesses in Kansas for quite some time. While Bank of the Prairie is located in a metro area that will more than likely not see a lot of benefit from this bill, I can tell you from personal experience traveling through rural Kansas that in many, many communities, the only source of capital is the local community bank. Those bankers take the thought of helping the communities they serve to another level and those bankers and banks need the same tools in their quiver to help keep those rural communities alive.

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.

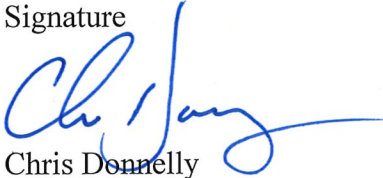
This bill will benefit borrowers of all business credit – whether it be for agriculture or commercial purposes - as well as help Kansans access credit for housing in rural areas (population 2,500 or less) by allowing community banks the same favorable tax treatment on these loans that other lenders (including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

Rob, your support for community banks is well known and I want you to know that I personally appreciate all you have done for Kansas Banks. Keep up the great work.

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Donnelly", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Donnelly  
President/CEO  
Bank of the Prairie