



Fidelity State Bank & Trust Co.

**The Fidelity Banks**  
Member FDIC

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**Date:** January 21, 2020

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

**From:** Allan P. Towle  
Chairman, President and CEO  
Fidelity State Bank and Trust Company  
Topeka, KS

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

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

I am Allan P. Towle, Chairman, President, and CEO of Fidelity State Bank and Trust Co., Topeka, KS. Our Mission at Fidelity Bank is to assist our customers to be successful. In doing so we ensure the community also remains successful.

I am writing in support of SB 259 because it will help create equal opportunities for credit for every Kansan 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 consider SB 259, they consider the value the locally owned bank brings to Kansas Communities and I support favorably passage of SB 259.

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allan P. Towle", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Allan P. Towle  
Chairman, President and CEO