

# Alden State Bank

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**Date:** January 21, 2020

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

**From:** J. Todd Rowland, President  
Alden State Bank

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I am proud to tell you that I represent the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to be involved with the Alden State Bank since it began operations in 1904. As 1 of 192 State Chartered Banks, we are equally proud to be serving the needs of our community, Rice County and the State of Kansas in 2020.

At one point in banking history, one could find a State Chartered Bank in almost every sized town in Kansas. Sadly, that is not the case today. That is why I am writing in support of SB 259. If approved, this bill will only serve to help local community banks create equal opportunities for credit for every Kansan involved in business lending and for rural housing. The Community Bank model is perfectly positioned to help provide these services, which will only help to boost both our local and state economy.

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 it favorably for passage.



J. Todd Rowland  
President

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MEMBER FDIC