

Hanaya dba Hanes Florist & Main Street Gifts

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March 3, 2021

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development
From: Hitomi Lamirande, Owner
RE: Testimony in Support of City Utility Low-Interest Program

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hitomi Lamirande and I currently own Hanaya LLC dba Hanes Florist & Main Street Gifts and the Loft on Sixth LLC. I am also a resident here in Osawatomie. As we know 2020 and 2021 has been especially hard on businesses and especially on the smaller businesses (such as the two that I currently own).

I have managed to keep local citizens employed through this pandemic and have made sure that payroll has always been my first priority (even though I have yet to pay myself). An increase in utilities will not only hurt my businesses tremendously, but my family as well. It has been a struggle to keep my businesses afloat throughout this pandemic as well as my personal finances.

I can only hope for a better future and will do whatever it takes to keep our downtown flourishing, but an increase in any financial matter will make that extremely difficult. We do what we have to do, but we're just asking for a little help and for you to consider the impact and heartache the closing a business will cause, not only for myself and my family, but for our community as well.

Remember that in any small town, especially in Osawatomie, we support our People, our Schools and our City. We have compassion and faith in our system. I ask that you bear this in mind when making your decision.

Thank You,



Hitomi Lamirande

Owner

Hanaya LLC dba Hanes Florist & Main Street Gifts

Loft on Sixth LLC