



Date: February 18, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Mike Petersen, Chairman

From: Doug Wareham, President & CEO
Kansas Bankers Association

Re: Support for Senate Bill 20 (Dennis M. Wilson Memorial Highway)

Thank you, Chairman Peterson, for scheduling time to consider Senate Bill 20, which designates a portion of U.S. 69 Highway in Overland Park, Kansas, as the Dennis M. Wilson Memorial Highway. I would also like to thank every member of the Senate Transportation Committee for the work you continue to perform on behalf of the State of Kansas during this challenging time in our state and nation's history. The fortitude exhibited by our State Legislature during this pandemic is a testament to the resilience and determination of the many past leaders that also answered the call to service for our state and its citizenry.

It is my pleasure and honor to express support for Senate Bill 20, which recognizes a great leader who sets a very high standard for service and commitment to his colleagues, community, and this great state. I personally had the pleasure of meeting and working with Dennis Wilson from the first time he stepped foot in the Kansas Statehouse as a State Representative in 1995 through his final days when he continued to serve as a local director for Freedom Bank, which serves the financial needs of individuals and businesses in the community Dennis Wilson proudly called home.

As a very young and inexperienced member of the statehouse lobby corps in 1995, I quickly recognized the strong leadership characteristics exuded by a particular freshmen State Representative from Overland Park. Integrity, unselfishness, knowledgeable, fairness, and tactfulness are leadership traits that defined Rep. Wilson on his first day at the Statehouse, and he held himself to those same high standards while also serving in the Kansas Senate and various other local and state leadership roles during his distinguished public service career.

Senator Wilson brought straightforward business acumen to the Kansas Statehouse. While he was passionate and driven behind the policies that he believed were in Kansas's best interests, he was equally respectful of his colleagues who shared a different viewpoint. Dennis Wilson understood how to disagree without being disagreeable. He was always diplomatic when making



his case, and he helped set a tone of statesmanship that benefitted the entirety of the Kansas House and Kansas Senate when he served there.

I believe it's important that we recognize Kansans that devote a significant portion of their life's work to serving the better good of this great state. Senate Bill 20 will honor the incredible legacy of service shown by Dennis M. Wilson, and I encourage this committee to act favorably on this proposal.