

The logo for the Community Bankers Association of Kansas (CBA) features the letters "CBA" in a blue serif font, positioned above three stylized, wavy lines in yellow and blue that represent water or a landscape.

Community Bankers  
Association of Kansas

*One Mission. Community Banks.®*

February 15, 2022

### Written Testimony in Support of HB 2061

My name is Shawn Mitchell, and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Bankers Association of Kansas (CBA), a statewide association formed in 1978 of locally owned and operated banks bound together by the shared philosophy that a community bank can best serve its local community. CBA's membership is limited to state chartered banks (in contrast to large ly based federally char of FDIC chartered banks) and our policy engagement focus on community banks in Kansas.

The Community Bankers Association of Kansas appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2061, particularly the provision regarding the privilege tax rate reduction. We believe this provision of HB 2061 is an important step for our Kansas community banks in confronting some of the unique challenges and changing business environment they operate in.

For example, many of the large regional and national banks have chosen to withdraw from most of our Kansas counties leaving only community banks to serve that population. In many Kansas communities our community banks are the only financial services providers that have chosen to live in, serve, and invest in those communities.

A reduction in the privilege tax is significant for our struggling economy, especially our rural Kansas areas and banks. Elimination of part of the privilege tax is a significant issue for our Kansas banks, allowing them to lower loan rates, invest more back into our Kansas communities, and help keep our rural areas alive.

To conclude, Kansas community banks, consumers in our state's struggling agricultural sector and business communities will benefit, allowing them to invest back into their businesses and stabilize. If our farmers, ranchers, rural areas, and businesses thrive, Kansas prospers.

We urge your support for this bill and respectfully request that this committee recommend favorably the passage of HB 2061.

***Shawn P. Mitchell, President & CEO***  
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