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February 4, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Taxation  
Kansas State Capitol  
Room 346-S  
Topeka, Kansas

RE: House Bill 2208

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Lane County Community Foundation, I am writing in support of HB 2208 "concerning taxation; relating to income and privilege tax credits; enacting the endow Kansas tax credit act; establishing a tax credit for endowment gifts to certain endowment funds held by qualified community foundations." The Lane Community Foundation serves Lane County residents in rural Western Kansas.

Endowment funding is critical to community foundations. House Bill 2208 not only confirms this, but grants organizations, such as ours, additional firepower to appeal to potential donors.

Besides fulfilling a philanthropic goal, the typical attraction for donating to nonprofit organizations is in the tax deduction opportunity afforded to an individual or business. A tax deduction is not necessarily the best monetary or intrinsic value for some high-net-worth individuals. It's the tax credit, however, that can be the main attraction to partner with philanthropic goals that really empowers Community Foundations to keep money in Kansas.

An example of this added value and selling feature for us here in Lane County is our recent drive to build and fund a new grocery store after losing the only store in the county to a fire. The wealthier people don't really need a tax deduction. They can simply purchase a piece of equipment to accomplish this and decrease tax liability. However, a credit (70% as per the initial bill) would perk the ears and eyes up for these individuals, is money given, which could be credited back during tax season. What a powerful selling feature.

We encourage the Committee to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Casey Venters".

Casey Venters, Executive Director  
Lane Co. Community Foundation