

February 5, 2025

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

RE: House Bill NO 2208

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As President of the Grant County Community Foundation located in Ulysses Kansas, I am writing in support of HB 220 "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 endowed funds held by qualified community foundations". We serve Grant County Kansas by Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter.

This bill will be invaluable to help build the endowed funds within the organization. Use of these funds helps to move projects forward in our rural community. Without these types of funds projects typically rely on only tax dollars that come through Grants or directed budgets at the local levels. Unfortunately, these sometimes fall short in very important areas that all our rural communities need such as education, healthcare, and housing to maintain a vital community.

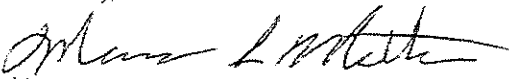
While I understand that this could be a short-term hit to the States Tax collections by proving a tax credit equal to 70% of the amount of the endowed gift would very much strengthen our endowed funds that could assist with funding projects well into the future that are vital to our community. Grants from these endowed gifts have helped fund much needed transportation for people who would otherwise be unable to afford the 92-mile round trip for healthcare needs such as dialysis, used to purchase education materials and equipment needed in classrooms annually using classroom grants and some of the latest Grants have been used for upgrades to our City Parks in the community. We have assisted in funding an upcoming project to install accessible equipment in one of our community parks so our community can be more inclusive.

Building these funds is a necessity for rural communities like ours. As we all learned in 2020, when an emergency such as the Covid pandemic there is a massive strain on response funding in all communities. Endowed funds help ease these burdens by providing much needed financial assistance to communities rapidly to assist local responses to these types of emergency situations.

These are just a few of the many reasons why I support HB 2208. Endowed gifts provide funding to projects that keep our communities viable and growing.

We encourage the committee to advance this bill.

Sincerely,



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