



February 4, 2025

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

RE: House Bill 2208

Mr. Adam Smith, Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation, I am writing to express strong support for 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."

This legislative proposal will encourage Kansans to invest in the future of their communities by keeping philanthropic dollars local, here in Kansas, and ensuring long-term sustainability remains at the forefront of our focus.

The Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) was established in 2009 after seeing the need to expand philanthropic resources and support opportunities to the northwest region of Kansas. We are the legal governing 501(c)(3) for 13 county-wide affiliate foundations, manage funds for two independent county-wide foundations, and host two supporting organizations within our model as well. GNVKCF's portfolio includes almost 450 established funds, with 65% of those being endowed. Today, GNVKCF's primary service region includes 15 counties, covering approximately 230 miles from the Colorado border east, making all 15 counties eligible in benefiting from the proposed tax credits, and the impact the new endowment funds will have in these rural communities.

We are in the midst of a historic Transfer of Wealth, with \$1.2 trillion expected to pass between generations by 2070. Without proactive measures, much of this wealth could leave our communities, and leave the state of Kansas altogether. By providing a meaningful tax incentive for gifts to endowed funds at qualified community foundations, HB 2208 will help us capture and retain some of these resources, ensuring they continue to benefit Kansans for generations to come.

A key piece of this tax credit proposal is the power behind endowments. The ability to grow unrestricted and field of interest funds – essential resources that our communities can count on to help meet emerging challenges and pressing needs – has unimagined potential in what the dollars gifted today can do in preserving the future of Kansas.

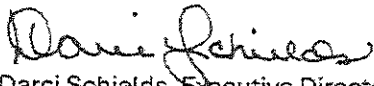
We have experienced firsthand the benefit of endowment dollars at work, thanks to private foundation partnerships with both the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and Patterson Family Foundation, and leveraging resources is truly the most impactful way in meeting shared goals.

The future and sustainability of Kansas is a goal we all share, and by passing HB 2208, you are allowing multiple resources and philanthropic partnerships come together, making a greater impact on our communities, our counties, and the wonderful state of Kansas in which we choose to call home.

We ask that you support this important legislative proposal and add Kansas to the list of states providing similar tax credit opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or would like to visit further, you may reach me at 785-734-2406 or darci@gnwkcf.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darci Schields".

Darci Schields, Executive Director/CEO
Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation