



8001 Forsyth Boulevard  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105-1797

*March 11, 2025*

Dear Chairman and Members of the Kansas House Taxation Committee,

On behalf of Commerce Bank, I would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 227 (SB 227), a proposal that increases the state's Historic Tax Credit to 40%. This legislation is a critical step forward in fostering economic development, revitalizing our communities, and encouraging investment in the preservation of Kansas' historic assets.

As a financial institution with deep roots in Kansas, Commerce Bank understands the importance of supporting policies that drive sustainable growth and bolster local economies. The proposed increase in the Historic Tax Credit would offer significant financial incentives to developers who are committed to preserving and repurposing Kansas' historic properties. By providing a stronger, more competitive tax credit, SB 227 would help developers overcome the considerable financial barriers often associated with rehabilitating older structures, making these projects more feasible and attractive in a difficult rate environment.

In particular, SB 227 holds immense promise for rural Kansas. Many small towns and rural areas in the State of Kansas are home to historic buildings that have significant cultural value but often lack the resources needed to update and repurpose these structures for modern use. The expanded Historic Tax Credit would not only provide developers with a larger financial cushion but also attract new investment and stimulate job creation in areas that need it most. From the restoration of main street buildings to the transformation of historic schools, theaters, and warehouses, this tax credit provides the capital needed to breathe new life into communities, ensuring that they remain vibrant and sustainable for future generations.

Moreover, the positive ripple effects of these investments are undeniable. Historic preservation creates jobs, strengthens local businesses, and enhances the tourism potential of these regions. For developers, the increased tax credit would enable them to take on larger, more complex projects that may have previously been economically unfeasible. For rural communities, this could mean more residents, greater economic activity, and a rejuvenated sense of pride and place.

Commerce Bank firmly believes that the passage of SB 227 will lead to stronger, more resilient Kansas communities. We urge the committee to support this important legislation and help drive Kansas' growth and prosperity for years to come.

Sincerely,

Alijah Rollins  
Senior Tax Credit Officer  
Commerce Bank

Nadia McMichael  
Senior Vice President  
Commerce Bank