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May 14, 2018

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown:

On behalf of the nearly 5,700 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), I write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Michelle “Miki” Bowman for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors (Board). Ms. Bowman is highly qualified to fill this important post by virtue of her broad government and bank regulatory experience and her impressive community banker credentials. I expect her to make an invaluable contribution to Board deliberations and to strengthen the Board’s rulemaking and open market operations.

Ms. Bowman is a superb choice to fill the Board seat reserved for an individual with community banking regulatory or business experience. ICBA worked hard to ensure the Board had a dedicated member with community bank experience and fought to have that requirement enacted into law. That position has not been filled since it was required by Congress in 2014. We are proud that Ms. Bowman has been nominated to fill this important seat. Ms. Bowman knows community banking from the inside as a fifth generation Kansas community banker. She is also a top financial regulator, currently serving as Kansas Bank Commissioner. She has been an officer of the Farmers and Drovers Bank of Council Grove, Kansas, where she was involved in both the lending and compliance aspects of the business. She has also worked in her family's cattle and farm operation and thus appreciates the link between agriculture and community banking and the importance of both to our national economy.

In Washington, Ms. Bowman has worked both in Congress and the Administration. She served on the personal staff of Senator Bob Dole and as counsel to several House committees. She was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as an executive at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and later as Deputy Assistant Secretary and Policy Advisor to the Secretary for Homeland Security. She holds a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Kansas.

The Nation’s Voice for Community Banks.®

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I can tell you that the community bankers who know Ms. Bowman best, her industry colleagues in Kansas, are thrilled by her nomination and the prospect of her service on the Board. With nearly 5,700 community banks nationwide, we look forward to Ms. Bowman's representation and input on the Federal Reserve Board. Thank you for scheduling her nomination hearing. I urge that she be voted out of committee and confirmed by the Senate expeditiously.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebeca Romero Rainey
President & CEO

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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