



INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS of AMERICA®

Timothy K. Zimmerman, Chairman
Preston L. Kennedy, Chairman-Elect
Noah W. Wilcox, Vice Chairman
Kathryn Underwood, Treasurer
Christopher Jordan, Secretary
R. Scott Heitkamp, Immediate Past Chairman
Rebeca Romero Rainey, President and CEO

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the nearly 5,700 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), I write to urge you to promptly schedule a vote on the nomination of Michelle "Miki" Bowman for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors (Board). Ms. Bowman's nomination was approved by the Banking Committee on a bipartisan vote. As you know, Board policy affects many aspects of community banking, and it is important to have a full Board in place for appropriate input and balanced deliberations. ICBA worked hard to secure a statutory requirement of community bank representation on the Board, and we fully support Ms. Bowman as uniquely qualified to fill that important role.

Under the terms of the statute, a Board seat is reserved for an individual with community banking regulatory or business experience. Ms. Bowman is doubly qualified as she currently serves as a top bank regulator, the Kansas Bank Commissioner, and she is a fifth generation Kansas community banker. Ms. Bowman served as 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. In addition, Ms. Bowman has worked both in Congress and the Executive Branch at senior levels.

In short, Ms. Bowman's experience is highly relevant to the Board and to this Board seat in particular. I have no doubt that she will make an invaluable contribution to Board deliberations and strengthen the Board's rulemaking and open market operations. Americans need someone on the Board with Ms. Bowman's diverse professional experience and her insight into the financial, rural, and agricultural economies. The community bankers in Kansas who know her best certainly think so. They have enthusiastically endorsed her nomination.

Thank you for your consideration. Ms. Bowman's nomination is an opportunity to strengthen, diversify, and enrich the Board, and we urge her prompt Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebeca Romero Rainey
President & CEO

CC: Members of the United States Senate