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June 4, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown:

On behalf of community banks across the country, with more than 52,000 locations, I write to thank you for promptly advancing the nomination of Michelle Bowman for a full term in the community bank seat on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors (Board). ICBA strongly supported her original nomination, which was confirmed by the Senate last November on a strong bipartisan vote, to complete a term which expires on January 31, 2020. We are pleased to endorse Ms. Bowman for a full term and enthusiastically urge you to advance her nomination.

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. We were thrilled when Congress enacted a key ICBA priority policy to create a dedicated community-bank representative seat on the Board. Ms. Bowman has distinguished herself in her short time on the Board, going to great lengths to engage with community bankers including agriculture lenders, and we are confident that she will continue to do so if confirmed to a full term.

Ms. Bowman's experience is highly relevant to the Board. She served as a top bank regulator, the Kansas Bank Commissioner, and she is a fifth generation Kansas community banker, having 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. Where statute requires community banking regulatory or business experience, Ms. Bowman has both, in senior, leadership roles. In addition, she has worked both in Congress and the Executive Branch at senior levels.

The Nation's Voice for Community Banks.®

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Ms. Bowman's diverse professional experience, seasoned judgment, and insight into the financial, rural, and agricultural economies has already begun to diversify the Board and strengthen its deliberations, rulemaking, and open market operations. Ms. Bowman's confirmation to a full term at the soonest opportunity would alleviate uncertainty and reassure community bankers nationwide that they will be represented in Board deliberations without disruption.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebeca Romero Rainey
President & CEO

CC: Members of the Senate Banking Committee

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