



Community Trust Bank

Member FDIC

107 South Second
P.O. Box 241
Irvington IL 62848
618-249-6218
618-532-0648
fax 618-249-8358

1425 East McCord
Centralia IL 62801
618-533-0527

17872 Exchange Ave.
Nashville IL 62263
618-327-4400

October 18, 2022

Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Greetings,

Please accept this letter of support for the FHLBank System from our institution. We have been a member of the FHLBC for as long as I can remember and I have been with the bank for just over 40 years. In this time, our institution has utilized their products and services for many reasons but mostly for liquidity management and ALM management.

I could put every product and service we have utilized but you already know the services that the FHLB provides and that would be a waste of time. What I would like to stress is the importance that the bank continue in their mission and purpose. They have provided necessary liquidity products to our industry throughout their history in a dynamic manner changing to the needs of our institutions as it related to the economy at that time. While at times the bank may have struggled, it always prevailed and weathered the storms along with their member banks. Why must we try and fix something that is not broken?? The bank and its staff reach out into our communities through our banks and help our rural areas thrive. Why would you try and fix that when it is not broke?? Because of some recent scuttle among collegiate staff or politicians – let me ask this what is their motivation behind this attack? Have those people been to rural America and the individual banks to understand the tremendous success they have in helping our communities survive and thrive? I would bet not. Again, I would like to ask what is their motivation behind this attack?

The FHLB products allow us small institutions to compete and level the playing field against nonbank competitors and governmental entities that have gone well beyond their scope and purpose. The down payment plus program and the MPF program just to name two. Our institution applied for the COVID 19 grant which allowed us to donate \$10,000 each to three local schools. These funds allowed them to provide technology to students who were required to learn from home during the pandemic. There was a great need in rural areas to get the technology to the children who did not have it so they could continue in their studies. I cannot stress enough how grateful our area schools were to get those funds at the exact time it was needed. Utilizing the FHLBank system with this type of program allowed them to reach rural America in a way I would bet no other program could. It helped a school in a community with a

To never be satisfied with where we are ~ our reward is to be your "Bank of Choice"

population of less than 500 people – the need of this community was great! Again, why are we trying to fix something that is NOT broke?

While I believe it is necessary to always be looking to improve our products and services for the customers we serve, I believe we have seen that in the FHLBank. Small rural community banks need their services to continue if we are to survive and thrive.

Again, why are we trying to fix something that is NOT broke? Would not our energies be better spent on improving the system to further the current mission of the FHLBank to ensure it continues well into the future?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila Burcham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'B'.

Sheila Burcham
President / CEO