Dear Sirs,

My regional FHLB (Topeka) has kept me informed of the comprehensive review of the System by the FHFA. I felt compelled to send this correspondence to highlight the importance of our partnership with the FHLB not only to our institution, but also our community.

I am an employee of the Denison State Bank (DSB) in Holton. We are a community bank with approximately $430 million of assets and 60 full time employees. Our primary market area covers parts of 3 counties with 5 locations. Agriculture and small business are the lifelines of our customers. They are hard-working Kansans with pride in their families and communities. DSB strives to facilitate the dreams and aspirations of every customer.

Whether it is supporting the 4 high school districts in our area, lending employees to student field trips, having fresh popcorn in the lobby every Friday afternoon, or buying 4-H animals at the county fair – we embody the spirit of community. This is made possible through providing both lending and deposit services. That is where the FHLB comes into play.

FHLB provides our bank with a multitude of services that keep us viable. Fixed rate funding to make fixed rate loans for farmland or business expansion. Liquidity to help the bank avoid selling securities at a loss during down markets (sound familiar) to be able to fund projects. Grant funding that helps young couples afford their first home or MPFP to finance a new community building. These are real examples that happen each and every day.

The best part of this story is how easy this really is. I have direct access to the FHLB by a simple phone call. Whatever need or question I have is there for the asking. I regularly visit with my contacts regarding an idea for funding, or how to offset interest rate risk we have, or how I can help a customer with a start-up business. I know these people by their first names, and better yet, they know me. This is real, and it is working. Please don’t change that.

In closing, I need to explain a bias in my thinking. I have employment experience within the FHLB system over the span of my 40-year working career. Being on both sides of the desk, I feel passionate about this relationship and the good that comes from it. Our bank received the Community Leader Award in 2017 from the FHLB – I have attached the video produced about DSB and I ask you to watch it. It will speak for itself. Thank you for your consideration.



Respectfully,

Steven M. Bowser

Executive Vice President

Denison State Bank