



Dear Community Bank Executive,

We need your support for the **Community Bankers PAC** in 2020. The needs of community bankers from all parts of the state must be clearly and effectively communicated to politicians in Lansing and in Washington, D.C.

For those of you who contributed through payroll deduction, purchased or donated an item at our annual PAC auction at the CBM 2019 Annual Convention, or who wrote a check, I say "thank you". For those of you who have not contributed before, now is the time to join in to make sure community banks have an effective voice in legislative matters in Michigan and Washington, D.C. With 2020 being a presidential election year, your contribution will be more important than ever.

There is strength in numbers and elections are expensive. Costs rise each year and for the CBM to continue to support candidates who advocate for our industry, we need your help funding the **Community Bankers PAC**. The Community Bankers PAC gives your bank a voice in the never-ending struggle to protect your banking franchise.

Here are just a few of our activities in 2019:

- We contributed to over 64 campaigns for legislators who know and support community banks in Michigan. We support legislators from both sides of the aisle who share our views and who want to see Michigan banks thrive.
- CBM is supporting the SAFE Banking Act (H.R. 1595) Which would create a safe harbor from federal sanctions for financial institutions that serve cannabis-related businesses in states where cannabis is legal. H.R.1595 passed the House on September 25th by a vote of 321-103 and now awaits approval by the Senate.
- In Michigan, CBM is monitoring HB 4980 which would automatically expunge certain criminal records. While we support second chances, this piece of legislation has the potential to be very harmful to our industry.

Thanks to your efforts in 2019, we have been able to leverage our association with Government Consultant Services, Inc. (GCSI) to make the voice of Michigan community banks heard at both the national and state level. Please consider conducting a bank wide PAC drive before year end to raise money to support the **Community Bankers PAC**. Every voice counts, and every dollar counts. A gift of just \$50 or more from each officer in the state would go a long way toward accomplishing our goals.

We have developed sample letters and forms that you can use to help conduct your 2020 PAC drive. I have included copies with this letter. Please go to our website (www.cbom.org) and download copies which can be found under the advocacy tab. Add your bank logo and customize the letter for your PAC drive. A bank may solicit contributions from stockholders, directors, officers, and exempt employees; other bank employees may voluntarily contribute to the PAC, but under Michigan law cannot be directly solicited for contributions. **Participation is absolutely voluntary**, and your teams' donations will only go to support those candidates who do a terrific job representing and supporting community banking and who are business friendly.

Your support of the **Community Bankers PAC** and help in fundraising will go a long way in making sure our state and federal legislators understand the importance of Michigan community banks.

I personally thank you for considering the **Community Bankers PAC** and for your commitment to keeping the Michigan banking industry strong!!!

Michael J. Tierney
President and CEO
Community Bankers of Michigan