

February 3, 2025

Honorable Rick Billinger, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 Southwest 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Proponent statement in support of SB-86

Chairman Billinger and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my strong support for the Heartland Flyer Extension.

Common sense would say that folks wanting to travel by rail directly from, or through, Kansas on their way south to Oklahoma and beyond should be able to do so. But, unfortunately, this is not the case. A gap exists between Wichita and Oklahoma. This forces Kansans and out-of-state visitors to make alternative, inconvenient and often more expensive travel plans.

Another point of common sense relates to the simple economics of it all. If we have fewer people traveling through part of our state fewer revenue dollars will also be traveling through our state. Two clear benefactors would be found within the retail and hospitality sectors. There are a plethora of detailed studies showing the economic benefits of the extension and you have been supplied with these.

Hopefully you will agree with the common-sense approach by approving the investment in the Heartland Flyer Extension. I greatly appreciate your time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Anderson
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