

February 2, 2025

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

Proponent Testimony requesting

Senator Billinger and Members of the Committee

My husband and I are fully in support of Kansas Senate Bill SB-86 that supports the development of new Amtrak passenger rail service in Kansas. Although we are residents of Kansas City, Missouri, geographically we are just two miles from the Amtrak station at Union Station. Our family is growing, and we have 2 children who, in a few short years, will be off to colleges and universities in the region. At this moment we have no idea what career path any of our kids will choose, but there is one thing that we are already thinking about, and that is how 2 children may be getting back and forth between their college and home, and the logistics of transportation x 2.

We have seen news reports and articles about the prospect of expanded passenger rail service potentially coming to Kansas. When we learned that a bill had been introduced last week and referred to the Ways and Means Committee as SB-86, our hopes for seeing new Amtrak Service on the horizon brightened my day.

Our children may take advantage of the existing Amtrak service and attend colleges in Missouri, for example in Warrensburg or St. Louis, or Kirksville. These cities have colleges that have Amtrak trains running daily to them. If additional Amtrak trains are added in Kansas, perhaps serving the University of Kansas, or Emporia State, or Wichita State, then this option may attract one of our children. I am sure that there are likely many other families living in Kansas and the region that would be attracted to this type of safe, economical and convenient transportation. We really do not want to contemplate the costs of 2 children, and 2 cars, and the care and maintenance, licensing, insurance, parking fees, and down time of a car parked on campus. These are expenses that could better be spent on their education and expenses while at college.

We hope to see passage of this bill into law and Statute and see new Amtrak service in Kansas as a result.

Respectfully,



Lea and Will Petrie



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