

City of Hutchinson

Pursuing Excellence In Public Service

P.O. Box 1567 / Hutchinson, KS 67504-1567

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

(620) 694-2610

October 25, 2012

Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Chairperson
Special Committee on Transportation
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Umbarger and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Hutchinson, I wish to thank the Special Committee for taking the time to hear and consider the concerns of the Southwest Chief Rural Rail Partnership regarding passenger rail service to our communities. I sincerely regret that I am unable to personally appear before you on October 29th, and ask that you accept this letter in lieu of my testimony.

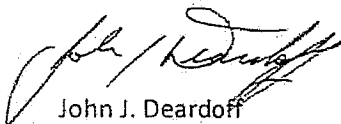
The City of Hutchinson shares the concern about the future of the Southwest Chief along with our partner cities. The City Council has resolved to call upon government leaders at state and federal levels urging their endorsement for the continuation of Amtrak's current Southwest Chief route through central and southwest Kansas, and we have backed our resolve with a financial commitment to help make certain that the Partnership has a presence in Washington.

As you know, the Amtrak's Southwest Chief serves southwest Kansas on its route between Chicago and Los Angeles on the host railroad line of Burlington Northern Santa Fe. The eastbound and westbound trains stop in Hutchinson daily, and in 2010 included 4,519 Hutchinson passengers among the 44,000+ Kansas passengers served. We believe Amtrak provides an invaluable service to our residents and other travelers in the central and southwest areas of Kansas. As energy prices increase, travel by rail will surely grow in importance and attractiveness as an alternative mode of transportation.

We are keenly aware of the financial burdens facing our great state, and I'm certain you can appreciate that local officials face financial constraints as well. That's why the Partnership's work in Washington is so important. We hope to gain the state's help in leveraging support for Amtrak at the federal level, and together find ways to continue and sustain Amtrak's service in Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



John J. Deardoff
City Manager

JJD:mrd



recycled and recyclable

City Hall Fax 620-694-2673
Central Purchasing Fax 620-694-1971
Fire Fax 620-694-2875

Park Fax 620-694-2676
Inspection Fax 620-694-2691
Municipal Court Fax 620-694-2858

Polir
Publ
Was

Special Committee on Transportation
October 29, 2012
Attachment 15