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October 19, 2012

2012
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

To: Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Chairman
Members of the Special Committee on Transportation

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Candace Wolke
Chairman

Re: Amtrak Routing in Kansas

Julie Gooch
Vice-Chairman

We understand that you will be discussing the future routing of the Amtrak service in Kansas. We understand that the current route is no longer feasible due to the cost of maintaining the track along that route.

Katherine Terry
Treasurer

Dr. John Brewer

This being the case, we feel the cost effective answer to this issue is to route the service on the BNSF double-track that currently runs through our State. This line is well maintained so hopefully there would be no additional expense to the State of Kansas while maintaining the option of traveling by rail for our citizens and those wanting to visit our State.

John Cooney

Diana Locke

John Schlickau

Casie Risley

Leo Schiltz

STAFF

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Janis Hellard
Director

This route travels through several Sumner County communities and it is our hope that we would be provided the opportunity to have at least one stop in our county. For years Wellington has been the crew change spot for BNSF, which we would like to see continue with the Amtrak trains. The trains would also run through Argonia, Belle Plaine and Mulvane. These cities would all make good stops. Mulvane and Belle Plaine both would be stops near the Kansas Star Casino where passengers could depart and take advantage of that entertainment venue. We know that it may not be feasible for Amtrak to stop at every town it passes through but we certainly hope that Sumner County will be the site of at least one stop if not more.

Tiffany Bonfiglio
Administrative
Assistant

Thank you for your consideration of our request for Amtrak to be routed along the BNSF main line and have at least one stop in Sumner County.

Sincerely,

Janis Hellard, Director

SCEDC
Committed to Improving the Economy of Sumner Cou

Special Committee on Transportation
October 29, 2012
Attachment 28