

February 2, 2024

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

SB 349 Passenger Rail Service Program (K.S.A. 75-5089, as amended)

Senator Petersen and Members of the Committee

My husband and I are fully in support of Kansas Senate Bill SB 349 that supports the development of new Amtrak passenger rail service in Kansas. Although we are residents of Kansas City, Missouri, geographically we are but 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. We are aware that there is a Senate Bill that has been introduced this legislative session as SB 349. We hope that the Kansas State Legislative Committee for Transportation will act affirmatively on the Bill and advance it for a hearing and subsequent vote.

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 SB 349 pass into law and Statute, and new Amtrak service in Kansas as a result.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lea and Will Petrie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lea and Will Petrie

3870 Charlotte
Kansas City, Missouri 64109