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BRENDA DIETRICH

20TH SENATE DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of SB 86

Presented by Senator Brenda Dietrich – written testimony as proponent

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025

Chairman Billinger, Vice-Chair Claeys, Ranking Member Pettey and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **SB 86**, establishing the Intercity Passenger Rail Program and asking that transfers are made annually to a Passenger Rail Revolving Fund.

I am the new Chair of the bi-partisan Passenger Rail Caucus and have been a member of that Caucus for many years. I am particularly supportive of the Heartland Flyer Extension because it will benefit both rural and urban mobility and align with the goals of the Midwest Regional Rail Plan. Several proposed routes have been chosen for federal support under the FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Program. We need to establish some sustainable funding for the extension plan ourselves and this fund will provide the dollars for the Kansas portion of the Heartland Flyer's Extension. We know the benefits that our state will realize and has already realized from moving people and goods throughout our state on our rail system and highways.

We will attract businesses looking for increased connectivity and transportation options. Many studies have shown that expanding passenger rail service can yield a return on investment through increased economic activity and improved mobility for workers and businesses.

I hope you will give SB 86 positive consideration in your budget discussions and decisions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 86.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda S. Dietrich". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Brenda S. Dietrich
Senate District, #20