

**Written Testimony Before the Kansas Senate Ways & Means Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 86 (SB86) and passenger rail extension in Kansas
Presented by Mayor Thomas A. Brown, City of McPherson**

Chairperson Billinger, Vice Chair Claeys, Ranking Member Pettey and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 86 (SB86). The City of McPherson is a member of REAP representing 10 Counties in South Central Kansas. Our region is home to many advanced manufacturers and community colleges and Wichita State University and Wichita Tech. We believe expansion of this critical infrastructure will bring benefits to our region of Kansas. We strongly support SB86, which provides important financial resources for passenger rail extension of passenger rail in Kansas.

As part of the South Central Kansas region, we believe expansion of this critical infrastructure will benefit our region with much needed people. It would:

- Provide an additional mode of travel for our residents, students, workers and business associates. The additional contemplated services would serve students, their families and manufacturing workers and consultants with links to Oklahoma and urban areas of Texas. I believe it would produce an increase in residents over time. People are the most valuable resource for economic development.
- Rail is a very safe mode of travel. There is now 55% connection between the various modes of travel nationwide. It should decrease highway travel and increase airport travel.
- It is environmentally friendly mode of travel.
- It is key to future growth and economic development.

I strongly support this expanded funding for multi-modal transportation as provided by SB86. Please support this initiative for the benefit of all Kansas citizens.

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