



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

From the desk of Commissioner Mike Stieben

300 Walnut, Suite 225

Leavenworth, Kansas 66048-2815

(913)684-0417

Fax (913) 680-2742

Email: mstieben@leavenworthcounty.gov

Support for SB 86

Dear members,

My name is Mike Stieben, I am a County Commissioner from Leavenworth County since 2019 , I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important issue thank you for your service to the people of Kansas.

I urge you to support the adoption of SB86 which will offer continued funding for expansion of passenger rail services in Kansas. The legislation will connect Kansas rail passenger service between Newton, Kansas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Dallas/ Ft. Worth, Texas for the first time since 1979 when the Amtrak "Lone Star" train was discontinued.

The current "Southwest Chief " train will soon be able to offer a connection to Oklahoma and Texas. This important connection will be a step forward for Kansas and allow future rail passenger extension opportunities with possible daylight service between Kansas City and Oklahoma City, as we progress with possible future growth.

The economic impact studies from other states including Missouri and North Carolina demonstrate that expansion of rail can reap huge economic development opportunities for communities along the route. Expansion, with additional trains being added, will allow more and more passengers to turn to an alternative, convenient , comfortable, timely, and efficient mode of travel. In addition, the extension of additional Amtrak services can also help serve as a lifeline to our rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Stieben
Leavenworth County Commissioner