



Midland Railway Historical Association

1515 W. High St., P.O. Box 5
Baldwin City, KS 66006
785-594-6982

March 1st, 2012

The Honorable TerriLois Gregory
Representative, 10th District
State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB 2689 Concerning Sale of Alcohol Beverage on Railroad Cars

Dear Representative Gregory:

I would like to offer my testimony in support of HB 2689 and its part in reintroducing a full service dinner train to the Baldwin City area.

My understanding from the active members from the past, the Midland Railway operated a dinner train for several years. The operation was a success, but sadly it ended due to the owners of the rail cars moving them elsewhere and they were no longer available to the Midland Railway. However, since the end of the "Prairie Pioneer Dinner Train" there continues to be inquiries into such.

The Midland Railway now has prospective owners wanting to conduct the services of a dinner train on the Midland Railway. This operation has conducted service since 1988 successfully in another part of the Midwest. We believe that the addition of this service would make major contributions to the continuation of the Midland Railway as well as bring more patrons to Douglas and Franklin Counties, along with creating new employment opportunities and tax revenue to the areas.

We need the assistance of the Kansas Legislature to bring this opportunity to realization. Current Kansas Law restricts sale of alcoholic beverages on moving vehicles, including railroad trains, to 3.2% beer. With us wanting this to remain a high end dinner train, as with high end restaurants, the patrons prefer wine or other beverages with their meal. Such beverages represent a large portion of sales in restaurants. Without this option, the opportunity to bring this dinner train to the area is very questionable.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-05-12

Attachment # 11



Midland Railway Historical Association

1515 W. High St., P.O. Box 5

Baldwin City, KS 66006

785-594-6982

Most restaurants in Kansas offer a full-service beverage menu and the bill would comply with all local limitations, we believe that the legislation would be very much in the interest in the areas you represent.

In conclusion, I would like to strongly express the support of the Midland Railway and myself for the pending legislature that you are sponsoring.

Respectfully,

Allen Kinsley
Marketing Director
Midland Railway Historical Association