



February 27, 2024

Chairman Shannon Francis
House Committee on Transportation
Capitol, 300 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Francis and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and our 500+ member businesses, representing over 10,000 employees throughout Southeast Kansas, please allow me to voice our overwhelming support for SB 410, which would rename an existing stretch of U.S. Highway 69 after Ken W. Brock.

While the effort to expand Highway 69 has involved thousands of advocates over the last 70+ years, I dare say none have been as tireless, passionate and impactful as Ken Brock. In his 13 years as the volunteer chairman of the Highway 69 Association, Ken spent countless hours and led dozens of trips to Topeka, Washington and anywhere else needed to stress the importance of the Highway 69 effort. Thanks to the relationships, leadership and respect that Ken brought to the table, those efforts were successful and now generations of Kansans have a safer way to travel, and countless lives will be saved, as a result of his efforts.

As elected officials yourselves, I know you understand the importance of civic engagement in our state and our society. Ken Brock was a model of what is possible when engaged citizens work with their elected officials for the betterment of our state. I can think of no better way to honor this incredible legacy than to support SB 410, so that all that travel this expanded stretch of Highway 69 know the remarkable individual that gave so much to help make it happen.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to offer our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "B".

Blake Benson

President, Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce