

Chair Senator Mike Petersen
Senate Transportation Committee
Hearing on SB 349 Passenger Rail Service Program (K.S.A. 75-5089, as amended)
Written Testimony is from David K. Martin, Wichita Citizen

I am writing in support of the Heartland Flyer Extension from Oklahoma City to Newton, KS. Passenger rail has proved itself to be a great asset to every community that it serves. I have been associated with passenger rail for my entire life and am a great supporter for multiple reasons.

The first reason is the tremendous convenience of having a large, fast, and safe conveyance brought to the middle of city centers. This connects big cities and provides smaller cities with transportation they would not otherwise have.

Secondly, every location where the train stops, and its surrounding region gains economically due to the ripple effect of dozens of people's spending using the local merchants.

Third, passenger rail is the safest mode of land transportation with fewer injuries per mile while providing comfort, essential services, and an entertaining environment.

Finally, there is nothing greater than the thrill of sitting back in comfort and watching the scenery of our great country. Whether it's mountains, prairie, or forests, there's no better way to experience America at a reasonable expense.

I heartily support the reintroduction of passenger rail to the region as a logical upgrade to Amtrak services.

Sincerely,

David K Martin

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