

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN F. REALS

JOHN F. REALS

WILLIAM A. VICKERY
OF COUNSEL

245 N. WACO, SUITE 260
P. O. BOX 1080
WICHITA, KANSAS 67201
wav@vickery-law.com

TELEPHONE: (316) 263-9323
FAX: (316) 263-0251

February 7, 2012

Sen. Dwayne Umbarger
dwayne.umbarger@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Kelly Kultala
Kelly.kultala@senate.gov

Sen. Les Donovan
Les.donovan@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Bob Marshall
Bob.marshall@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Anthony Hensley
Anthony.hensley@senate.ks.com

Sen. Terrie Huntington
Terrie.huntington@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Mike Petersen
Mike.petersen@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Roger Reitz
Roger.reitz@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Vicki Schmidt
Vicki.schmidt@senate.ks.gov

Re: Northern Flyer Alliance

Dear Senate Transportation Committee Member:

I cannot express how important I believe that it for the Kansas Legislature to act in a prompt and responsible manner regarding the Service Development Plan (SDP) for the Northern Flyer. The expansion of the Heartland Flyer from Oklahoma City to Kansas City, has a value to Kansas citizens that should not be underestimated.

I have been a resident of Wichita my entire life. My parents have resided here for the past 60 years. Like many people in the Wichita area, I have a brother and sister who left Wichita and live in the Dallas area. There are many many Kansans who have friends and family members currently living in the Dallas area for whom this expanded train service would be a valuable option for transportation between Wichita and the Dallas Fort Worth area. It is almost certain that gasoline is going to approach \$4.00 per gallon this summer and it seems unlikely that we will ever see gasoline under \$3.00 per gallon again. My brother does fly regularly between Dallas and Wichita however, he is always quick to point out to me that it is cheaper for him to fly roundtrip from Dallas to Frankfurt, Germany, than it is to fly to Wichita. He is just one example of an individual who would regularly use this train service. I would also point out that both of my parents are now 80 years old. They are not able to drive between Wichita and Dallas and they do not have the money to fly. Again, this train would be a valuable service to them, if we could get this done in their lifetime. However, I would speculate that there are thousands of similarly situated families. I am sure there are many other examples like this and it will be unfortunate for all Kansans along the proposed route of the train if we do not promptly move forward with this project.

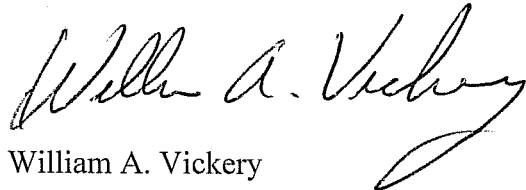
In order to continue the progress that has been made on the expansion of the passenger train service from Fort Worth to Kansas City, we need you to submit a TIGER grant application to

upgrade signals and safety on the BNSF corridor along with the NEPA work for the expansion. It is my understanding that this TIGER 4 money is available for a short period of time and that you will be required to act quickly. KDOT has said for some period of time that new signals and safety projects should be done on this rail corridor and this is a way to get federal matching funds in order to complete that work.

We also need for you to put aside two million dollars into the revolving fund for passenger train expansion as a show of good faith towards the completion of the long term project. This would show a commitment by the Kansas Legislature to a service that will benefit many Kansans.

I would be very appreciative if you would keep me informed with regard to the committee's progress with regard to submitting application for the TIGER grant and setting aside the two million dollars on this project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William A. Vickery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

William A. Vickery

WAV:dm©