



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 7, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for SB 59

To: The Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: Nancy Thellman, County Commissioner, Douglas County, 2nd District

Honorable Committee Members,

I write in support of the City of Eudora's efforts to fund and build a new, 21st century library for their rapidly growing community. I am well familiar with this project as I have been the county commissioner for Eudora and Eudora Township for over ten years. I enthusiastically support Eudora's sincere efforts to make their new public library a reality.

I have witnessed the power of a modern public library in my own community, Lawrence, where an ambitious renovation of an under-utilized and outdated facility was completed a few years ago. That library is now the heart of Lawrence, a public place where people of all ages, races, socio-economic classes and abilities enjoy a phenomenal variety of books, of course, but also educational programs, public gatherings, creative projects, not to mention the highly utilized free public access to high speed internet for those who would otherwise go without. Eudora wants and deserves the same for its citizens: a place for education, empowerment, cultural enrichment and an increasing sense of the commons.

A library has existed in Eudora since 1968 and during that time many good programs have been offered like a story hour for children, youth programs, summer lunch programs and a senior reading program. But Eudora could do and wants to do so much more. They are ready for a public library that will meet their needs now and for the future; a library designed with 21st century services in mind. There is great community support for this project. My hope is there will be legislative support from you as well as you take up Senate Bill 59.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Nancy Thellman
1547 N. 2000 Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66044