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To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

American Heritage Railways is a company that owns two historic / scenic railroads and partners with over 50 other rail operations helping to insure their cultural heritage is preserved for generations to come. We create great experiences that promote preservation and education.

For nearly two years now we have had the pleasure of working with the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. It is so exciting to see the tremendous progress the ASVR is making in becoming a true economic driver for the entire region surrounding Abilene and Dickinson County. Ridership is up, revenue is up, and the positive reception by the local commercial community is mushrooming. ASVR's General Manager, Ross K. Boelling, and his crew have shown more energy and creativity in growing the railroad's presence than has been seen in many years.

The Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad is just now beginning to recognize its potential. The future is more than just people riding trains. It's about new jobs, tremendous positive financial impact on the communities and tourism growth that will help every business of every kind in the region. For this reason, it is important that local and state governments support the ASVR in every manner possible from public recognition to financial assistance for long term capital projects. The return on the investment of time and money will be enormous. The rewards will be history preserved for generations to come.

At American Heritage Railways, we are committed to the preservation of history because history is the road map to the future. The Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad is a great piece of Kansas State history and deserves to be nurtured and cared for now and forever.

Please call and let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely Yours,

Allen C. Harper
Chairman / CEO



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