

KANSAS STAR

casino ★ hotel ★ event center

October 29, 2012

Chairman Dwayne Umbarger
Special Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Umbarger and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Klemp, Director of Government Relations for the Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane, Kansas. I appreciate the opportunity to support passenger rail service to south central Kansas with a rail stop in the City of Mulvane.

Kansas Star Casino is a \$329 million development that opened its interim facility in December 2011. We plan to open our expanded permanent casino facility by the end of this year. The new facility will feature a larger gaming floor, five restaurants including the Woodfire Grille steakhouse, the Kitchen Buffet, a 150-room hotel and more. The interim casino facility we are currently operating will be converted into a 5,000 seat multi-purpose event arena.

The final phase of our project will be a world-class equestrian center. It will attract regional and national equestrian shows and competitions. The equestrian center is scheduled to open in 2014. The Hampton Inn & Suites is scheduled to open 150 additional hotel rooms at that same time.

Kansas Star Casino supports the efforts under way to extend passenger rail service along the I-35 corridor and the proposed stop, for both northbound and southbound trains, in Mulvane.

Mulvane is an attractive stop for two reasons. First, Kansas Star Casino is quickly taking shape as a destination resort and is located about 4 miles away from downtown Mulvane. Because Kansas Star is a public/private partnership with the State of Kansas, increased visits from out of state customers will generate more gaming revenue sharing for state and local governments.

It follows that other local businesses and organizations will also benefit by a passenger rail stop in Mulvane. Visitors to Mulvane can experience the museum, shops, restaurants and other attractions that south central Kansas has to offer.

On behalf of Kansas Star Casino, Sumner County's largest employer, I respectfully urge this Committee and the Kansas Legislature to support passenger rail service to south central Kansas and to include a stop in Mulvane. By doing so, you will enhance state and local revenues, economic development and tourism in the region.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions.

Richard Klemp
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