



ADMINISTRATION

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Date: February 28, 2024

To: Committee on Transportation, Chairman Shannon Francis

From: Daron Hall City Manager, Pittsburg

Re: SB 410 – Written Support Testimony

Dear Chairman Francis and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

It would be hard to overestimate the positive impact Ken Brock has had on Pittsburg and southeast Kansas. This worthy bill specifically recognizes his efforts to accomplish the connection of Pittsburg to the Kansas City metropolitan area through the completion of that stretch of US 69 as a four-lane highway. His tenacious push to see this completed was essential to its realization, and the safety and prosperity of the residents of southeast Kansas will continue to be elevated for generations.

Ken's critical role in bringing about this transformative project is undeniable, but he has meant so much more to the region and the State. He has been a tireless promoter of aviation in Kansas. He has supported Atkinson Municipal Airport for over sixty years, starting out washing planes, eventually authoring the airport master plan and leading the effort to extend its primary runway. He was an active pilot for over forty-five years, and at one time, he owned four hangars.

He was engaged in his industry and throughout the community. He served on boards in the publishing industry, and was recognized as the ADP Gold Book Publisher of the Year. He helped to extend South Rouse Street in Pittsburg (and added a bike/walking trail), served on local hospital, bank, university and business boards. He established the local Toastmasters chapter and was a major benefactor to an array of charitable operations. He was a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society and a major contributor to Pittsburg's Veteran's Memorial. He was the 2011 recipient of the Spirit of Pittsburg Award.

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Identifying these parts of his achievements is not adequate to note his significance to the people of this region and to this State. His boundless optimism and relentless drive for progress has left an indelible mark. Dedicating this portion of US69 is a well-deserved recognition.

