



**Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Support for Julie Lorenz as Secretary of Transportation
Senate Transportation Committee
Monday, March 18, 2019**

Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,000 businesses in the greater Kansas City area, is pleased to provide this testimony of support for Acting Secretary Julie Lorenz in her nomination as Kansas Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Lorenz has been a tireless advocate for innovative transportation initiatives in the Kansas City area and during her previous term with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Kansas needs a strong, knowledgeable and passionate advocate to lead KDOT and a person who understands that our transportation systems are critically important for the economic vibrancy of Kansas. The KC Chamber believes Ms. Lorenz meets these requirements.

To underscore her credentials as a transportation leader, prior to rejoining KDOT, the KC Chamber was fortunate to have Ms. Lorenz serve as co-Chair of the KC Chamber's Big 5 Transportation Initiative in which she advocated for adequate investment and innovative planning and design in the region's transportation systems. This regional improvement priority initiative focuses on regional transportation innovation and moving the workforce to jobs. Additionally, as co-Chair, Ms. Lorenz oversaw an innovative pilot program with Google to help cities and other jurisdictions make better informed decisions about the movement of people and goods by mapping flow, timing and mode of transportation. The greater Kansas City area was just one of 5 cities in world to be chosen by Google for this special project.

As economies and modes of transportation technologies are rapidly changing, the KC Chamber believes that it is important for our transportation leaders to be forward-thinking and mindful and considerate to innovation in transportation systems. We also believe that the leader of KDOT needs to recognize that transportation systems are the state's lifelines of economic development, provide safe transportation to work and school, and connects Kansas' people and goods to the rest of the country and world.

Accordingly, on behalf of the KC Chamber Board of Directors, we urge the members of this committee and the members of the Kansas Senate to favorably recommend and confirm Julie Lorenz as the next Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

**John Jenks, Director of Public Policy
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
30 W. Pershing Rd., Ste. #301
Kansas City, MO 64108
jjenks@kcchamber.com**