



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

June 8, 2010

Board of Regents
University of Nebraska
Varner Hall
3835 Holdrege
Lincoln, NE 68583

Board of Curators
University of Missouri
316 University Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

To the Nebraska Board of Regents and the Missouri Board of Curators:

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, the governing board of Kansas State University (K-State) and the University of Kansas (KU), we write to you regarding the future of the Big 12 Conference. It is our understanding, that after 14 years of Big 12 membership, you are now considering departing for a different conference. We strongly urge you to retain your Big 12 membership thus preserving, among other things, a long tradition of healthy competition that benefits our universities, their students and alumni, and our states.

We are unwavering in our belief that the best course for K-State and KU is continued joint membership in the Big 12. Over the past 14 years, Big 12 universities have displayed consistent success both on the field and in the classroom. The intense competition that has taken place in the athletic arena has carried over into the academic classrooms, thus strengthening the core academic missions of the 12 member universities. In addition, Big 12 membership has allowed our student athletes to avoid excessive time out of class due to the geographic proximity of the member universities – a vitally important attribute that not all conferences possess.

While the Big 12 member universities have undoubtedly benefited from the past 14 of years of partnership, Nebraska, Missouri, K-State, and KU are in a unique position to be able to point to over a century's worth of tradition. The KU/Missouri football rivalry dates back to 1891, while the KU/Nebraska rivalry dates back to 1892. The K-State/Missouri football rivalry dates back to 1909, while the K-State/Nebraska rivalry dates back to 1911. All four universities had become members of the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association by 1913, and this valuable partnership continued through the life of the Big 8 Conference and continues today in the Big 12.

The evolution of intercollegiate athletics will continue to present challenges to our universities, but we believe we can best meet those challenges as partners rather than as individuals. Again, we strongly urge you to retain your Big 12 membership by renewing your commitment to the Conference. The Kansas Board of Regents stands ready to meet with you; this issue is of

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paramount importance not only to our universities, their students and alumni, but also to our states.

Sincerely,



Regent Jill Docking
Chair



Regent Gary Sherrer
Vice Chair



Dr. Andy Tompkins
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Dan Beebe, Big 12 Conference
Board of Regents, Baylor University
Board of Regents, Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical Colleges
Board of Regents, State of Iowa
Board of Regents, Texas A&M University System
Board of Regents, Texas Tech University System
Board of Regents, University of Colorado
Board of Regents, University of Oklahoma
Board of Regents, University of Texas System
Governor Mark Parkinson, State of Kansas
Representative Mike O'Neal, Speaker, Kansas House of Representatives
Representative Paul Davis, Minority Leader, Kansas House of Representatives
Senator Steve Morris, President, Kansas Senate
Senator Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader, Kansas Senate
Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Dennis Moore, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Jerry Moran, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Todd Tiahrt, United States House of Representatives
Senator Sam Brownback, United States Senate
Senator Pat Roberts, United States Senate
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, University of Kansas
President Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University