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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: James Orr

Lawrence, Tex.

Oct. 20th 1875

Col. R. S. Stevens
Hannibal, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 14th inst. to hand and contents noted. Please accept thanks for your kind suggestions. Since writing I have been in extensive correspondence with parties in the southeastern part of the state. I learn that there is a charter for a narrow gauge road from Tyler to Sabine Pass. The citizens of Rush, acting under this charter, have built 15 1/2 miles to Jacksonville on the International at a cost of \$60,000 which is now being operated over wooden rails and is "paying very well." Now this charter can be controlled without any trouble and we could easily get another from Denison to Jacksonville and get the narrow gauge changed. I object to Tyler, as being too far to the right or east; also on account of the Gt. Northern extending from thence to Jacksonville. My correspondence has shown that liberal aid can be obtained from all the counties along the line.

Now my plan is to run the road from Denison via this town and Kaufman thus securing the subsidy and subscriptions to the "Kaufman Tap" and from thence to cross the International at Jacksonville and take a direct route to the terminals at the pass. This would give a new and competing route to Dallas via the T. & P. from Lawrence and another to Galveston and Houston over the International and Great Northern, besides opening up a country already populous and productive.

I am satisfied that we can form combinations sufficient to obtain the charter and I hope we will be able to overcome the scruples of capitalists against R. R. investments ~~by~~ in this particular, by providing for a sinking fund out of its gross earnings to be deposited with the State Treasury, out of which the interest and principal is to be paid. I had thought of getting the State to secure the interest on \$12,000.00 per mile but we would have to first try our strength.

¹FROM: Book of letters to R.S.S., July 1875 to April 1876.

I am making preparations to run for the Legislature, if necessary, and so far feel that my election would be certain, while I am assured by influential men from the S. E. that they will see that their delegates are all right.

I shall go to Denison shortly and will also visit the counties south of this and in the mean time would be glad to have your advice or assistance and would like to ask if you think any of the old members of M. K. & T. are able and willing to go into this enterprise. If so, would it be better for you to correspond with them or for me to do so.

Will post you on any new developments.

Very Respectfully,

James Orr