

## City of Hays – Water Supply Hearing

June, 20, 2023

Comments by D. G. Bickle,

WATER RESOURCES  
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My name is D.G. Bickle, a lifelong Hays resident and business owner. Before I begin my commentary, I would like to thank the Hays City Commission, its Manager, and all other responsible parties associated with conducting this hearing, for the opportunity to comment on such an important issue.

Our community has struggled for decades to source reliable enough water at times to sustain our most basic needs. While our community takes great pride in its ability to persevere through serious issues of many kinds, the availability of water affects many business and personal decisions. We are the largest economic engine in northwest Kansas, and we accept the responsibility of being a job center to a large number of surrounding counties, but without adequate water supplies we are crippled in our ability to rise to that responsibility.

The water issue demands an **extraordinary** level of commitment to achieve a long-term solution that can sustain the city, its many neighbors, and travelers who rely on the community for health care, education, retail/food services, air service, lodging/hotels, etc.

I would ask that whoever hears, and reads, these comments acknowledges this issue is of the utmost importance to the health, and survival, of our community long term.

I will close by saying that we collectively are going to have to make an extraordinary investment of never seen before proportions, and do so with our own resources coupled with others to solve this solution in such a way that it benefits the community, the region, and the state.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions.

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