# **HAYSMED**

**Edward Herrman** 

President and CEO Administration

RECEIVED WATER RESOURCES

JUN 2 0 2023

KS DEPT AGRICULTURE

June 14, 2023

Water Transfer Hearing Panel c/o Chief Engineer – Division of Water Resources Kansas Department of Agriculture 1320 Research Park Dr. Manhattan, KS 66502

Subject: Support for Hays/Russell Water Transfer Application - Securing Water for Future Generations and Ensuring Health, Wellbeing, and Prosperity

Dear OAH Committee.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Hays/Russell water transfer application (OAH No. 23AG0023) and emphasize its utmost importance in securing a sustainable water supply for the communities of Hays and Russell. As we face increasing challenges posed by water scarcity, it is imperative that we take proactive steps to ensure the health, well-being, and prosperity of our present and future generations.

Access to an ample and reliable water source is a vital determinant of community health and well-being. Adequate water supply plays a critical role in maintaining public health standards, supporting sanitation infrastructure, and ensuring the availability of safe drinking water. The approval of the Hays/Russell water transfer application would enable the region to meet the growing demand for water, safeguarding the health and well-being of the residents for years to come.

Furthermore, water scarcity poses significant threats to the economic prosperity of any region. Industries, businesses, and agriculture heavily rely on water for their operations. By granting approval for the water transfer, Hays and Russell would not only secure the future viability of existing enterprises but also attract new investments and foster economic growth. This, in turn, would create employment opportunities, enhance the standard of living, and contribute to the overall prosperity of the region.

The Hays/Russell water transfer application represents a vital step toward ensuring the long-term health, well-being, and prosperity of the communities involved. It exemplifies a responsible and proactive approach to resource management, recognizing the direct link between water availability and the overall quality of life for the residents. By securing a sustainable water supply, we can alleviate the pressures caused by water scarcity, minimize the risk of waterborne diseases, and enable the continued growth of essential sectors that drive economic prosperity.

I urge the OAH Committee to carefully consider the wide-ranging benefits of the Hays/Russell water transfer application. By granting approval, you will not only safeguard the health, well-being, and prosperity of the present generation but also establish a foundation for the future generations to thrive. This decision will pave the way for sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and resilient communities, serving as a shining example for others facing similar water challenges.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. I trust that you will make a decision that prioritizes the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of Hays and Russell, ensuring a bright and sustainable future for generations to come.

Edward Herrman, BSN, MBA/HCM, FACHE

Edward Merrman

President and CEO

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Hays Medical Center does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Hays Medical Center provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- · Oualified sign language interpreter
- · Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

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- · Qualified interpreters
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Chief Legal Officer Hays Medical Center 2220 Canterbury Drive Hays, Kansas 67601

Telephone Number: 785.650.2759

TTY/TDD or State Relay Number: 800.766.3777 (V/T); or Dial 711

Fax: 785.623.5524

Email: joannah.applequist@haysmed.com

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You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C. 20201 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

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