



ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSION

718 Main Street, Hays, KS 67601

WATER RESOURCES
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KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

June 20th, 2023

Public Comment for the Hays/Russell Water Transfer Application
OAH No. 23AG0023 AG

Matthew A. Spurgin
Presiding Officer/Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings

As the board chair of the Ellis County Commissioners, I am supportive of the endeavor taken by the cities of Hays and Russell in finding and obtaining a sustainable water source for the Ellis County region. We are appreciative in the efforts our local governments have done to reduce the amount of water used per capita in our area, making us a leading community and setting the example for water conservation throughout the nation.

Please accept this letter of support to the cities of Hays and Russell for request to the approved for the Water Transfer Act. This water is not only beneficial for our area, but for the entire Northwest Kansas. As you may know, Ellis County ranks second in the State with a retail pull factor of 1.48. A score of higher than 1.00 indicates the county is pulling in trade from beyond our county limits. Have a sustainable water source will allow our county to continue to steadily grow and sustain our way of life, not only for our county, but for all the other county residents who travel to our county for their needs.

I have full confidence that the City of Hays and Russel will keep to their word and continue to strive for efforts of efficient water use to ensure the sustainability of the Edwards County wellfield well into the future.

We appreciate your consideration of approving this Water Transfer Act request, allowing our \$3B economy to continue to grow, our citizens to continue to prosper, and for our local government leaders to set the standard and lead by example throughout this process and project.

Sincerely,

Neal Younger,

Chair, Ellis County Board of County Commissioners

Michael Berges, First District

Neal Younger, Second District

Nathan Leiker, Third District

