

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Bruce Seiler. I have lived in northwest Sedgwick County all of my life. My wife, Theresa, and I operate our family farm above the Equus Beds aquifer. We depend on the Equus Beds for domestic and irrigation water. As such, we recognize the importance of maintaining the quality and quantity of water in our aquifer.

We have invested time and money to insure that our farm uses water in a very conservative manner. We operate 20 irrigation systems. All of our irrigation systems have been updated with more efficient nozzle options. We use variable rate application as a way to further conserve water.

The water permits that we utilize have a total of 2,366 AF of authorized annual water usage. However, our average usage has been 1,063 AF which is less than 45% of our allocation. We realize that our crops require more than that amount of water, and we are grateful for rain as an alternative source of water for the crops. Furthermore, the majority of our farm ground has a water table of 5-20 feet, and we recognize that a portion of the water we pump through the irrigation systems moves back through the soil profile to recharge the aquifer.

If we were allowed to operate under the same agreement that the city of Wichita is proposing, we would expect to be able to bank credits for water that we did not pump due to the use of our alternative source of water as well as the water that we are returning to the aquifer. In turn, all users of the aquifer should be entitled to credits for the same reasons. However, we are not asking for water credits of any kind because we believe that would be detrimental to the sustainability of the aquifer.

Why the city would ask for Aquifer Maintenance Credits when the aquifer is too full to accept recharge is unfathomable. If the aquifer is too full at any time to receive more water, as it was earlier this year after abundant rainfall, clearly the recharge is unnecessary at that time. Above normal rainfall is what refills the aquifer most efficiently. If the city has not returned water to the aquifer, it should not receive credit. No one should be allowed to claim credit for acts of nature.

We are opposed to the city of Wichita's plan that would allow them to draw extra water from the aquifer in times of a drought due to these artificial credits. During a drought everyone will need extra water, not just the city of Wichita and their customers.