



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WATER RESOURCES
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JUN 23 2023

KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

June 15, 2023

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

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

RE: Endorsement of the City of Hays and City of Russell's proposal to transfer water rights from irrigation to municipal.

On behalf of the employees and students at Fort Hays State University, I want to share our strongest endorsement of the two cities' efforts to transfer water rights from irrigation to municipal. Access to water resources is essential to the future of our two communities, and we believe the plan put forward, coupled with the conscientious and successful water conservation efforts of both municipalities, offers the best long-term solution.

The cities of Hays and Russell demonstrated remarkable foresight with the purchase of the R9 Ranch as a potential water resource in 1995. Efforts to transition water rights associated with R9 to address expanding water resources in our region began in 2014. The two cities faced opposition from the beginning, despite both agreeing to decrease their water usage under the plan by a further 30%.

We believe the plan to develop R9 as a long-term water resource is sound environmentally and strikes a balance between the needs of our two cities and many of the regional irrigators who currently oppose this effort. The Fort Hays State University community stands with our city leaders and is strongly behind this vital project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tisa Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tisa Mason, Ed.D., CAE
President