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June 19, 2023

WATER RESOURCES  
RECEIVED

JUN 23 2023

KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

Re: Hays/Russell Water Transfer – June 20<sup>th</sup> Public Comment Hearing

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter in support of the approval of the water transfer application submitted by the cities of Hays and Russell, Kansas nearly 8 years ago.

For decades, our two communities have been proactively researching water saving techniques and promoting conservation efforts to the public. I am so proud of the efforts our citizens have made to respect this valuable natural resource and have applauded city officials' due diligence in discovering innovative means to offset and stretch current water resources. Therefore, I was part of those rejoicing when they identified the R9 Ranch in Edwards County as a sustainable source of water for our two communities.

While serving as our President/CEO of the Hays Chamber for 9 years, I was able to observe first hand how much our water needs impact our local economy and quality of life. As a regional economic driver for our state, Hays and Russell need to continue to grow and evolve to best meet the needs of the people served in this area. Water is vital for strategic long term success, not only for our communities but for Northwest Kansas and beyond.

I urge you to approve the water transfer application and establish a ground-breaking precedent for the future of all Kansans.

Sincerely,

Tammy Wellbrock  
Owner/Founder