



WATER RESOURCES  
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JUN 23 2023

KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE HAYS/RUSSELL WATER TRANSFER APPLICATION, OAH NO. 23AG0023 AG

June 20, 2023

Toby Dougherty  
City Manager  
City of Hays  
1507 Main  
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Toby,

As Fort Hays State University and our Hays community continue to thrive and grow, we also must consider providing sustainable ecological solutions for our area, including a future water supply. The Hays and Russell regions represent a prospering \$3 billion economy that can only grow with a reliable water source.

Over the past several years, Hays and Russell have collaborated to search for and secure additional water resources to safeguard our economic future. Key stakeholders, including our city commission and ecological experts, have concluded that implementing a water transfer from the Edwards County wellfield will provide 75 years or more of sustainable water, depending on growth rates.

Having a reliable water source is vital for our university's success. Our employees, students, and their families depend on a system that allows them to live a healthy life. In supporting this initiative, we aim to set a precedent of opportunity for our area and a culture of conservation for all future generations who benefit from this water transfer.

We encourage those deliberating on this matter to approve the transfer application while considering these factors. The prosperity of our region and the success of future generations of FHSU Tigers hinges on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Williby  
President and CEO  
Fort Hays State University Foundation