



January 20, 2026

Kansas State Legislature
House Local Government Committee
Kansas State Capitol Building
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Testimony in support of HB 2433

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Wasinger, and I appear today on behalf of the local Chambers of Commerce in support of House Bill 2433.

HB 2433 reinforces Kansas's economic framework by ensuring that authority over water transfers and appropriations rests with the state agencies specifically charged with that responsibility, and that counties may not override that process.

From an economic development standpoint, regulatory certainty is essential.

Independent analysis by the Docking Institute identifies Hays as the economic center of a regional economy that is important to the State of Kansas, with the primary region producing approximately \$1.8 billion in Gross Regional Product resulting in significant tax revenue to the State of Kansas. The loss of a vital resource such as water would cause serious population and industry decline and would significantly harm the statewide economy.

Experts further estimate that, without this project, drought-related losses to Kansas could reach as much as \$251 million annually, while the R9 construction project alone is projected to generate approximately \$167 million in economic impact.

The Cities have complied with nearly a decade of State review, and the Cities have shown that the project provides significant statewide benefit.

HB 2433 protects infrastructure investment, supports regional economic engines, and strengthens Kansas's competitiveness.

From the Chamber's perspective, this bill is about economic confidence and community stability.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 2433. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah A. Wasinger'.

Sarah Wasinger
President/CEO - The Chamber in Hays, Kansas

Connecting Business. Advancing Community.

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