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Testimony in Support of HB 2433
Proponent

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is John O. Farmer IV, President of John O. Farmer, Inc., and I am here today on behalf of the Russell business community to support House Bill 2433.

HB 2433 matters to employers because it confirms that once a project meets state water requirements, counties may not impose additional permits, conditions, or fees related to the transfer or appropriation of water.

For businesses, water reliability is not theoretical. It determines whether we can operate and expand our operations, recruit and retain excellent employees, and invest with confidence.

Our region represents a growing, multi-billion-dollar economy that contributes significant tax revenue to the state, yet even moderate drought places that economy at risk, with state-wide consequences. At least one major employer in Russell has been unable to proceed with a planned expansion because sufficient water could not be assured.

The Cities of Hays and Russell have complied with every required State process to secure a sustainable water supply, and the State has concluded the project will not impair other water rights and provides significant statewide benefit.

When counties attempt to usurp state law, critical investment and job creation are delayed.

HB 2433 will provide the predictability businesses need to commit capital and create jobs in Kansas.

For these reasons, we urge your support of HB 2433. Thank you.