



Russell County Economic Development & CVB

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Testimony in Support of HB 2433 Proponent

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Parsons, and I serve as Executive Director of Russell County Economic Development & the Convention and Visitors Bureau. I write today in support of House Bill 2433 from the standpoint of rural and regional economic development in Russell County and north-central Kansas.

HB 2433 reinforces an essential principle for economic development across Kansas: regulatory clarity and consistency matter. By affirming that authority over water transfers and appropriations rests with the state agencies specifically charged with that responsibility, this bill provides certainty for communities, businesses, and investors who rely on predictable statewide processes rather than fragmented local decisions.

From an economic development perspective, water is foundational infrastructure. Several impactful economic development projects are on hold due to the uncertainty of providing that infrastructure. If not addressed, population loss, business contraction, and reduced workforce availability will continue to ripple outward into our smaller communities that already face tight labor markets and limited economic margins.

The Cities of Russell and Hays have complied with nearly a decade of state-level review and have demonstrated that this project provides statewide and regional benefit. HB 2433 ensures that long-term infrastructure investments, especially those critical to economic resilience, are not undermined after extensive regulatory compliance.

From Russell County's standpoint, this bill is about protecting regional stability, supporting rural-urban economic interdependence, and maintaining confidence in Kansas's development framework.

For those reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of HB 2433. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mike Parsons
Executive Director
Russell County Economic Development & CVB