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Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

August 14, 2020

Re: Wichita County LEMA Initial Hearing

My name is Mike Meyer. I am the Water Commissioner for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, at the agency's Garden City Field Office.

As the agency that administers the Kansas Water Appropriation Act and other laws applicable to water management in Kansas, DWR wants to provide testimony in support of the request by Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 to initiate a Local Enhanced Management Area for Wichita County.

Either myself or my staff have attended most of GMD 1's monthly board meetings over the past two to three years and have particularly been involved in the GMD 1 Board's discussions regarding the proposed LEMA for Wichita county. When asked, we have assisted GMD staff with developing the proposed LEMA plan, which I believe meets the required criteria and sets desirable conservation goals that are in the public interest. My staff is equipped to continue to assist GMD 1 with administration of this LEMA as needed if it is ultimately designated, and I believe this LEMA can successfully meet its stated goals.

I am also aware that the proposed LEMA has received strong local support from Wichita County citizens. This support has been evidenced through the success of and support for existing Water Conservation Areas in Wichita County. I've attached the Findings and Order Designating the Wichita County Water Conservation Area to my written testimony as Exhibit A. There has also been strong public attendance at the monthly groundwater management district board meetings where this LEMA was discussed, as well as public meetings hosted by local supporters themselves. Overall, I believe this LEMA should be approved, as it advances water conservation in this area and will therefore serve the interest of all Wichita County citizens.