

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

It has come to our attention that The State of Kansas and local water user organizations are working diligently to address identified water resource needs of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We are writing to request your support for USFWS technical assistance in this effort.

The Refuge is an important asset to Central Kansas and serves as a critical pathway for migratory birds. It is located in an agricultural production area which is key to the economies and quality of life for numerous small Kansas communities. Many of these farms are multi-generational, and they have sustained themselves through effective and progressive farming practices and partnering with others.

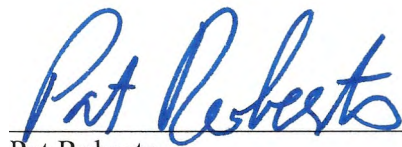
The USFWS claims a deficiency of water resources needed to sustain the refuge and its habitat. Water users in the Rattlesnake Creek region are working with the State of Kansas and its chief engineer to develop a plan to address this deficiency which includes augmentation and conservation.

Local water users understand that a cooperative effort to increase on the ground conservation practices as well as transition of some production acreage from irrigated to dryland or pasture ground are necessary elements of the overall plan. They also understand that some financial contribution from local citizens and agricultural producers, through self-assessment or non-governmental funding sources, may be required. They are working on all of those options as the State's formal process continues.

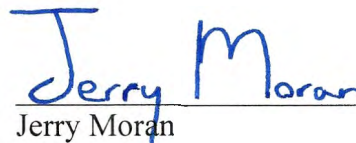
It is our request the Department of the Interior issues technical assistance with the augmentation engineering necessary to implement this primary piece of the long-term solution. Working with the state and water users, we are hopeful a USFWS technical team will help to expeditiously develop the appropriate, effective and efficient augmentation plan that will assist in a necessary win-win solution of future water supply on the refuge.

Thank you for your very prompt attention to our request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Ron Estes

Ron Estes
Member of Congress (KS-4)

Roger W. Marshall

Roger Marshall
Member of Congress (KS-1)