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**HY-PLAINS
FEEDYARD, LLC**

To: Chair of the Kansas House Committee on Water
HB 2279

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:00 AM Room 218-N

RE: In Support of HB 2279

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Tom Jones, Managing Member of Hy-Plains Feedyard, LLC located near Montezuma, Kansas. I am providing written testimony in support of HB 2279 and the amendments. Hy-Plains Feedyard, LLC is a commercial cattle feeding operation located in GMD3. The feedyard has 30,000 to 40,000 cattle on feed, and is heavily involved in research projects to improve animal efficiencies throughout the entire supply chain.

I am testifying in support of this bill as identifying high priority areas and implementing action plans to conserve the natural resource of water. These efforts are essential and action must start today rather than further down the road. The Ogallala Aquifer is not only essential to success of the feedyards in Kansas, but also the entire economy of the state. Steps need to be taken to ensure water access will be available for years to come for the area, and enable me to pass the feedyard down to the next generation. Research efforts need to be done to identify ways to improve efficiencies and be more sustainable, such as identifying alternative cropping solutions, grazing options, and starch requirements for dairy and feedlot cattle. This bill allows the local organization to identify these areas of need and develop an action plan tailored to the region within a defined time period which is reasonable to achieve.

In closing, I support HB 2279 and the amendment that will likely be proposed by the bill's author, to begin the process of conserving the Ogallala Aquifer and all the societal and economical organizations which are reliant upon the Aquifer. Additional action steps will be necessary, but this bill is a start in the correct direction with reasonable and achievable deliverables.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Jones' in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Tom Jones
Managing Member
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