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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BARB WASINGER
111TH DISTRICT

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am Representative Barb Wasinger, District 111, which includes the City of Hays. The City of Hays water usage in 1983 was 180 gallons per capita and as of 2020 the usage per capita is 90 gallons. Statewide the average is 140 gallons of water per capita. Their efforts to reduce water use is nothing short of remarkable.

Hays instituted water conservation efforts in 1990. It has rebates for low flow toilets, high efficiency washing machines and gives away low flow shower heads when an old shower head is brought in and retired. Hays was the 1st City in Kansas to adopt a plumbing code for conservation, 1st City to hire a water conservation specialist and the 1st City to pay “cash for grass” – paying to replace fescue and high water use lawns with low water use lawns such as buffalo grass. Hays has water rates and rules to discourage excess water use.

I ask that the Committee pass SB 358 favorably.

Representative Barb Wasinger

District 111 January 26, 2022