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COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES
HELSINKI COMMISSION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1604

March 5, 2007

Mark Myers
Director, United States Geological Service
John W. Powell Federal Building
MS 100
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

RE: USGS Special Study for Simulation of the Groundwater Flow System and Assessment of Water Quality in the Tri-State Area

Dear Director Myers:

Ground water declines and water quality degradation are threatening public water supply wells in southeast Kansas and other parts of a tri-state region including Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. A USGS study of these issues began through an initial appropriation of \$230,000 in the federal FY 2006 budget.

The purpose of the study is to determine the effects of existing and proposed groundwater withdrawals on groundwater levels and water quality, providing information to assist water managers in evaluating the practical limits of the resource to sustain development. The results will also allow the tri-state area to better coordinate and manage the aquifer to meet their mutual public water supply needs.

While a great deal of progress has made on the study, one additional appropriation at the FY 2006 level of \$230,000 would allow the study to be completed without any additional appropriations in upcoming fiscal years. I encourage the United States Geological Service to provide funding for this study at the FY 2006 level during the current FY 2007 fiscal year. The estimated cost of the study is \$886,000 which is planned for completion in 2008 if federal funding is secured this fiscal year. The balance of the funding is being provided through other state and federal sources.

Thank you for all the outstanding work you do for the citizens of this country in collecting and analyzing data used by so many public and private entities for better managing the nation's water resources. Please contact Landon Fulmer in my office at landon_fulmer@brownback.senate.gov or 202.224.0448 if we can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
United States Senator

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