

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Brenda Burman, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Burman,

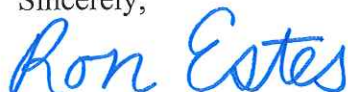
I am writing to support the City of Wichita's request for \$2 million in funding for the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project. The FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations bill allocated \$20 million for the Bureau of Reclamation ASR projects that would be of the utmost benefit to Wichita, which is the largest city in my Congressional District.

The City of Wichita's (ASR) project diverts water from the Little Arkansas River when the water levels are high, treats it, and then injects it into the Equus Beds aquifer. This process allows the city to accumulate recharge credits with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. These credits allow the city to obtain additional water from the Equus Beds aquifer during a drought.

This funding would be used to improve and enhance Wichita's current ASR facilities resulting in an increased ability to capture surface water from storm runoff events in the Little Arkansas River and a greater capacity for both recharge and future recovery of captured water. These overall improvements to ASR facilities will lead to an increased water supply that will improve the region's economic standing as well as the lifestyle quality of its citizens during drought conditions.

Without the means to implement the much-needed improvements to Wichita's current ASR infrastructure, the city will face uncertainty during the time of a drought, leading to a decreased water supply. In order to avoid a disastrous economic situation, I am requesting that the City of Wichita is given all due consideration for this funding in order to ensure an adequate water supply for the city.

Sincerely,



Congressman Ron Estes