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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1601

May 9, 1990

Honorable Sidney Yates
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sid:

As you receive testimony May 10 on the Ogallala Aquifer Research and Demonstration program, as authorized by P.L. 99-662, I wanted to express my concern that this project has not been adequately funded.

The Ogallala aquifer is a tremendous resource that supports agricultural and municipal growth in eight states. In Kansas, the aquifer sustains 31 western counties where irrigators utilize 17,000 wells and 2.7 million acre feet of water to increase the yield, profitability and tax revenue on 2 million acres.

Unfortunately, water withdrawals greatly exceed water recharge and water tables in some areas. We need to act now to conserve and extend the life of this important resource.

Education and research programs to encourage conservation and improve water use efficiency are the most attractive policy alternatives. I encourage you, as Chairman, to take a close look at implementing the Ogallala Aquifer Research and Demonstration Program as you proceed to markup.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD/jgs