



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*Kent Hance, Chancellor*

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer  
1424 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neugebauer:

On behalf of the Texas Tech University System, I respectfully ask for your support of FY2010 funding in the amount of \$5M for Ogallala Aquifer research.

This important collaboration between Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, West Texas A&M University, Kansas State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has the primary mission to develop innovative conservation measures for the Ogallala Aquifer resource through a multi-state, university and federal program. The collective regional knowledge base will be focused on an integrated program to develop and transfer water conservation technology.

Surface water is severely limited in West Texas, and the Ogallala Aquifer has provided water for the regional development of a highly significant agricultural economy. Ninety percent of groundwater withdrawals are used for irrigation. Local grain production is used primarily as feed grains for intensive beef, dairy, and swine production, thus adding stability to the regional economy. The Ogallala Aquifer is a finite resource with aquifer recharge being much less than withdrawals. As the water table declines, the pumping costs escalate, and water becomes a commodity with potential competing uses. Research into the complex nature of water availability, uses, technological improvements, and pricing will drive the discussions and decisions relative to water policy.

Research provided through this funding is needed to protect the Ogallala Aquifer and retain the economic integrity of the Southern Great Plains region, including the Texas High Plains, and portions of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Colorado, all states that are dependent on the survival of the Ogallala Aquifer.

I am grateful for your assistance and truly appreciate your continued support of Texas Tech and all that you do for the great State of Texas. Please feel free to contact me if I or my staff can assist you in any way.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Hance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kent Hance

