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*Journal of Rural and Community Development*

Department of Rural Development

Brandon University

270 – 18th Street

Brandon, MB. Canada R7A 6A9

Dear Editors of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development,*

It is with great pleasure that my co-authors and I are submitting our manuscript entitled, “Women’s water access is associated with measures of empowerment and social support: A cross-sectional study in Sub-Saharan Africa” for consideration for publication in the *Journal of Rural and Community Development.* This work has utilized data from the Gallup World Poll in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Voices of the Hungry project. The McGill Institute for Global Food Security has been involved in data analysis of this work, which has continued with this manuscript.

Water security has received more attention in recent years given the water crisis that persists globally. As we note in our manuscript, improvements have been made with the recognition of water access as a basic human right; however, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to experience water scarcity. Previous work has described gender roles in the home as it relates to water access, but no studies to our knowledge have considered women’s water access and individual empowerment and social support. Understanding these relationships is valuable given women’s roles in the home and gender inequality, especially as experienced in rural Sub-Saharan Africa. Our hope is that this work would feed more research in this area.

We feel that the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* is an excellent place of publication given its readership, and the relevance of this manuscript to community development for improved water access throughout rural Africa. Researchers and professionals would benefit from this work as a means to think more critically of water research and to expand community interventions as they relate to water security.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hiliary Monteith