



Written testimony in support of HB 2238, Cowley County: The Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas

To be heard by the Kansas House of Representatives Local Government Committee on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015, 1:30 pm

Chairman Rep. Steve Huebert
149B-S Kansas State Capitol
300 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

My name is Sarah Werner and I am the CEO of the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Director of Winfield Convention and Tourism in Winfield, Kansas. In addition, I am currently serving as the chairman of the Cowley County Tourism Alliance and chairman of the Flint Hills Tourism Coalition. I have been actively involved with tourism in Cowley County and the region for the past eight years. I am here today in support of House Bill 2238.

With the large number of bridges in our county, as well as the beauty and relatively good condition of these bridges, Cowley County is a strong candidate to be named the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas. What's more, the designation of Cowley County as the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas would bring awareness to these treasures, and help with future efforts to preserve and protect our bridges.

The Cowley County Tourism Alliance has actively been working to promote our stone arch bridges as a visitor attraction. These efforts have been successful and have resulted in a tremendous surge in the visitors to our county's bridges in the past year. We are also working, in cooperation with our local county government, to further develop access points around the bridges for enhanced viewing and photo-taking opportunities. In addition, we plan to offer guided bus tours of the bridges a few times a year.

Cowley County's stone arch bridges are cherished by local residents, and a resource we want to continue to share with others. The designation of our county as the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas would raise awareness of these structures throughout the state, and bring more people to our county to enjoy them.

I thank you for taking the time to consider this measure, and I would encourage you to vote to name Cowley County the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas.

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