

Approved 4/23/86
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Senator Edward F. Reilly, Jr. at
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./~~noon~~ March 24, 1986 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Morris was excused.

Committee staff present:

J. Russell Mills, Jr., Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
June Windscheffel, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. Lewis E. Stookey, Principal, Caldwell Elementary School, Caldwell, Kansas
Mr. Larry Miller, Sixth Grade Teacher, Caldwell Elementary School, Caldwell, Kansas
Seventeen Students from the Sixth Grade of Caldwell Elementary School (listed below)
Senator Joe Warren

SB744 - concerning designating the ornate box turtle as the state reptile.

The Chairman announced that this morning's hearing relates to whether or not Kansas should name the ornate box turtle as the state reptile. He expressed appreciation from the Committee to the Caldwell Delegation for their appearance before the Committee today. He also welcomed Senator Joe Warren to the meeting, and stated that Senator Warren had been a leader in getting this issue going in the State Senate.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Lewis E. Stookey, Principal of the Caldwell Elementary School, who was the first conferee. Mr. Stookey said that because of the class project the students have learned about careers and about government. Most importantly is the self-esteem that the students have now through recognition through the newspapers, television and through our state government. Mr. Stookey said the students feel good about this. Even if the bill were not to pass the students know that they can do things and get people in places of administration and government to listen to them.

Mr. Stookey distributed a statement explaining the matter before the Committee at this time. (Attachment #1) This was the official introduction.

The proponents, all students from the sixth grade at Caldwell Elementary School, were as follows. Copies of their testimony are also attached to these Minutes.

Shane Schmidt presented "Facts," (Attachment #2); Jeff Wolff talked about "Introduction to Editorial" (Attachment #3); Kirt Bocox presented an "Editorial by George Neavoll" (Attachment #4); Kristy Goodman and Stacy Volavka told about "Support of Kansans" (Attachments #5 and #6); Julia Shoffner and Tim Ward spoke about "Class Determination" (Attachments #7 and #8); a "Description of the Turtle" was presented by Julia Shellhammer, Mandy Struble and Aaron Lowe (Attachments #9, #10 and #11); Tammy Wittum discussed "Organizational Support" (Attachment #12); Amy Green dealt with the topic, "Do Not Keep Turtles as Pets" (Attachment #13); Misty Thompson gave more information concerning "Facts" (Attachment #14); Scott Wickery told about a "Lasting Birthday Gift" (Attachment #15); Mary Morris explained the "Longevity of the Turtle" (Attachment #16); "Awareness of the Turtle" was expressed by Andrea Stetz (Attachment #17); and Mark Kolarik gave a statement entitled "Closing by Students" (Attachment #18).

Mr. Larry Miller, Sixth Grade Teacher from Caldwell Elementary School, was next on the agenda. He explained that much time had been spent in discussing what the project would involve. They spent a lot of time in the library and a lot of time communicating with professionals across the United States.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS,
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on March 24, 1986

Mr. Miller stated that before they started writing all the letters to the legislators that they wrote to different organizations and schools to get a feel as to whether or not the ornate box turtle was a favorite across the state. When they were convinced it was a favorite they started the project.

This is the 125th anniversary of Kansas, and the school decided in October to do something for Kansas' 125th birthday, and that was when the students decided to work for the state reptile.

In closing, Mr. Miller thanked the Committee for the opportunity for the class to appear and present its case. He said it has been a great learning experience to appear and testify before the Committee, as has all the other effort and energy that has been expended in pursuing the project.

The Chairman asked Senator Joe Warren if he would like to appear. Senator Warren said he was very proud and rewarded to see schools such as this in existence. He said this is a little school that is always energetic and doing something. He was proud to have had a part in getting small schools such as this back in existence, and proud to have it in his district.

The Chairman said that Representative Robert H. Miller would have been present at today's meeting except that he had a conflict in the House of Representatives.

The Chairman stated that HB3113, state reptile, ornate box turtle, was passed in the House of Representatives this morning. In view of that action it would not be wise for the Committee to pass SB744 out. However, this Committee likes to go through the Committee process where the members can hear testimony. When the House Bill comes to the Senate it will be considered very seriously.

The Chairman told the delegation members they should be proud of the work they have done and the organization they have gone through in making their presentations. He said it does prove that legislative response is related to persistence. The Chairman thanked everyone for appearing.

HCR5024 - horse racing with parimutuel wagering by county option.

The Chairman called HCR5024 to the Committee's attention.

Senator Martin moved that SCR5024 be passed out favorably. 2d by Senator Strick. Motion carried. Senator Daniels voted "no."

The Minutes of March 18, 1986 were approved on a motion by Senator Arasmith, 2d by Senator Strick. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.



ORNATE BOX TURTLE
FOR STATE REPTILE OF KANSAS

3/24/86
Attachment #1

SIXTH GRADE CLASS
CALDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ONE NORTH OSAGE STREET
CALDWELL, KANSAS 67022

TOPEKA, KANSAS
Hearing on S.B. 744
11:00 am

(phone 316-845-2414)

Terrapene ornata ornata by Tom R. Johnson

24 March 1986

The principal, the sixth grade teacher, and the seventeen sixth graders from the Caldwell Elementary School in Caldwell, Kansas will testify on behalf of the ornate box turtle. They will testify in the order given below. Each person will reinforce testimony already given and introduce new materials.

The group will show why the ornate box turtle should be named the official state reptile. They will do this by telling of the support the animal has across the state, telling about how the animal fits with the other Kansas symbols, and telling about the animals life in Kansas.

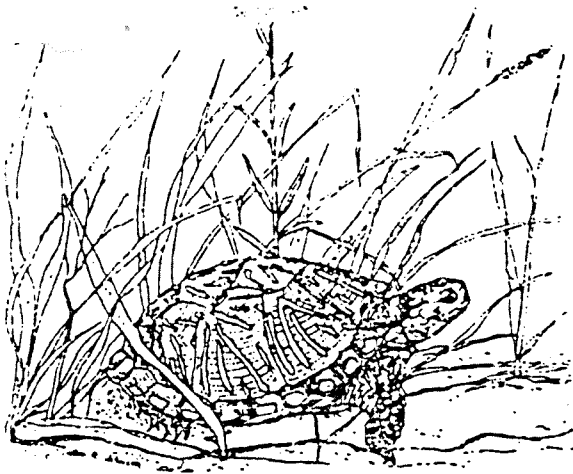
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|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ 1. | Lewis E. Stookey, Principal | Introduction |
| ✓ 2. | Shane Schmidt, Student | Facts |
| ✓ 3. | Jeff Wolff, Student | Introduction to Editorial |
| ✓ 4. | Kirt Bocox, Student | Editorial by George Neavoll |
| ✓ 5. | Kristy Goodman, Student | Support of Kansans |
| ✓ 6. | Stacy Volavka, Student | Support of Kansans |
| ✓ 7. | Julia Shoffner, Student | Class Determination |
| ✓ 8. | Tim Ward, Student | Class Determination |
| ✓ 9. | Julia Shellhammer, Student | Description of Turtle |
| ✓ 10. | Mandy Struble, Student | Description of Turtle |
| ✓ 11. | Aaron Lowe, Student | Description of Turtle |
| ✓ 12. | Tammy Wittum, Student | Organizational Support |
| ✓ 13. | Amy Green, Student | Do Not Keep Turtles as Pets |
| ✓ 14. | Misty Thompson, Student | Facts |
| ✓ 15. | Scott Wickery, Student | Lasting Birthday Gift |
| ✓ 16. | Mary Morris, Student | Longevity of the Turtle |
| ✓ 17. | Andrea Stetz, Student | Awareness of the Turtle. |
| ✓ 18. | Mark Kolarik, Student | Closing by Students |
| ✓ 19. | Larry Miller, 6th Grade Teacher | Summary of Project |

The Caldwell Sixth Grade Class has received letters of support, suggestions, donated time, and other help from people, schools, the news media, and organizations from all parts of Kansas and several other states. A list of some of those involved with the state reptile project follows on the next two pages.

The list does not include the names of the 70-80 Kansas Senators and Representatives that the class has heard from to date.

Bob Gress, Naturalist for the City of Wichita
Jan Garton, President of the Kansas Audubon Council
George Neavoll, Editor of the Editorial Pages of THE WICHITA EAGLE
Robert J. Lewis, Attorney at Law from Atwood, Kansas
Martin B. Capron, President of THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Edward P. Foster, Chairman of the Professional Services Division at SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE in Winfield, Kansas
Gene Trott, Organizer of THE CAHIKASKIA RIVER WILDLIFE STUDY, from Hunnewell, Kansas
Frank L. Nelson, Biology Teacher, EMPORIA HIGH SCHOOL in Emporia, Kansas
Gary K. Clarke, Director of the TOPEKA ZOO in Topeka, Kansas
Jeffrey F. Whipple, THE KAW VALLEY HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY in Eudora, Kansas
Cindy Ford, Environmental Resources Coordinator, PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY in Pittsburg, Kansas
Kelly J. Irwin of Wakarusa, Kansas
Patricia Neeland of DeSoto, Kansas
Terri Shuman & Jan Garton of KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH
Tom R. Johnson, Herpetologist, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION / Jefferson City, Missouri
Carolyn Duckworth, Associate Editor, RANGER RICK MAGAZINE, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.
Brian E. Viets, EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY in Emporia, Kansas
Scott Hillard, President of THE WILDLIFE LEAGUE, Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kansas
Mrs. Carole H. Allen of Huston, Texas
Ned Stichman, President of THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Miller of Wellington, Kansas
Hobart M. Smith of the UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO in Boulder, Colorado
Patricia DuBose Duncan of Kansas City, Missouri
Carolyn J. Schmitt, President of the KANSAS - NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Martin J. Rosenberg, Ph. D., Editor of HERPETOLOGICAL REVIEW, Case Western Reserve University; Cleveland, Ohio
Gerald J. Wiens, Naturalist, CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER / Arkansas City, Kansas
Shelley Skie of Lawrence, Kansas
Mark Gouvion of Wichita, Kansas
Joseph T. Collins of THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS in Lawrence, Kansas
Edith M. Day of Arlington, Kansas
Dianne Weekley of South Haven, Kansas
Lucia Baldwin of Topeka, Kansas

Frieda M. Clum of Conway Springs, Kansas
Lucerne Burlison of Wichita, Kansas
LeLand Unruh of Haysville, Kansas
Edna Wares of Liberal, Kansas
Mary Dawson of Ann Arbor, Michigan
Brad Anderson of Newton, Kansas
Lori Roberson, Sixth Grade Teacher at Rose Hill Middle School in Rose Hill, Kansas
(Also letters from a number of Ms Roberson's students. Their names have not been listed)
Mrs. Ivan Rhodes of Wichita, Kansas
Paul E. Hendren of Wichita, Kansas
Lesley Roberts of Norwich, Kansas
W.R. Landers of Wichita, Kansas
Kim Hansen, Student at WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY in Wichita, Kansas
Mrs. Elmer Wheeler of Wellington, Kansas
Gary A. Cress of Wichita, Kansas
Donna Calderin of Braman, Oklahoma
Lynda Milligan of South Haven, Kansas
Ken & Cathy Burk of Wichita, Kansas
Jerry Newland of WEBBER LAND COMPANY in Winfield, Kansas
John Simmons, Museum of Natural History at the UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS in Lawrence, Kansas
THE CHENEY SIXTH GRADE CLASS in Cheney, Kansas
Kathy Matthews of Lecompton, Kansas
Laurie Metzler of Pottstown, Pa.
Dave Kirkbride, Executive Director. SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS - NEA / Haysville, Kansas
THE OKLAHOMA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Andrea Glenn, Editor of KANSAS!
Paul G. Jantzen, Editor of THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS NEWSLETTER
Ramona J. Anshutz, Education Program Specialist, KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Nancy Landon Kassebaum, UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM KANSAS / Washington, D.C.
Dan Glickman, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, D.C.
Randy Brown, KAKE News Department of Ch. 10 TV in Wichita, Kansas
Vikki Collins, Producer of PM MAGAZINE



ORNATE BOX TURTLE
FOR STATE REPTILE OF KANSAS

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SIXTH GRADE CLASS
CALDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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CALDWELL, KANSAS 67022

(phone 316-845-2414)
.....

Terrapene ornata ornata by Tom R. Johnson

JANUARY 1986

WHY THE ORNATE BOX TURTLE SHOULD BE NAMED THE STATE REPTILE OF KANSAS

1. The ornate box turtle is a native animal to Kansas
2. The ornate box turtle can be found in all parts of the state.
3. The ornate box turtle is a yellow and brown animal. The same colors as the other state symbols.
4. The ornate box turtle lives many years. Some may live to over 100 years!
5. The ornate box turtle has the support of professional educators, school children, adults, and legislators from across the state.
6. Kansas does not have a state reptile.
7. The ornate box turtle is a friend to the Kansas farmer.
8. The ornate box turtle is a harmless animal.
9. The ornate box turtle is known and liked by most Kansans.
10. The ornate box turtle is a cautious and conservative animal.
11. The ornate box turtle carries its home on its back just like many early pioneers did as they traveled to Kansas from the east.
12. The ornate box turtle is a very attractive animal just like most charming Kansans. Ornate means decorated.
13. The ornate box turtle can survive the extremes of the Kansas environment just like good hardy Kansans.
14. The ornate box turtle would make a lasting 125th birthday gift for Kansas.

SUPPORT THE ORNATE BOX TURTLE FOR THE OFFICAL STATE REPTILE OF KANSAS!

3/24/86
Attachment #2

Shane Schmidt
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

Hello I'm a sixth grader from Caldwell Kansas. My name is Shane Schmidt, I would like to list a few reasons why the ornate box turtle should be named the official state reptile of Kansas.

The ornate box turtle lives in all parts of our state.

The ornate box turtle has the Kansas colors yellow and brown just like our other state symbols.

The ornate box turtle lives many years.

The ornate box turtle has support of a number of people across the state.

The ornate box turtle is a friend to Kansas farmers.

The ornate box turtle harmless animal unless you bother it or harm it.

The ornate box turtle is sknown and liked by most.

The ornate box turtle is a cautious and conservative animal.

The ornate box turtle carries its home on its back just like pioneers did when they came from the east.

The ornate box turtle is an attractive and decorated animal.

The ornate box turtle can survive the extremes of Kansas environment

The ornate box turtle would make a lasting 125th birthday gift for Kansas.

Kansas deserves a state reptile.

Please support the ornate box turtle for the official state reptile of Kansas

Thank you
very much

3/24/86

Attachment #3

Jeff Wolff
Caldwell, Kas.
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

Hello, my name is Jeff Wolff. I am a member of the sixth grade class at Caldwell, Kansas. Our class is proposing that the ornate box turtle be named state reptile of Kansas.

We started this project in late October and have worked on it until now. Since we started, we have written approximately five hundred letters telling about the state reptile project. During the first part of project we drew posters of our own and put them up around Kansas. Mr. Miller, our teacher, designed a different poster with drawing by Tom R. Johnson on it. We didn't really start writing that many letters until after we put up the posters and had an editorial in the Wichita Eagle and Beacon. Then we started

receiving letters and calls from different television stations out of Wichita. We have appeared on many television programs.

At this time I would like to conclude my testimony so that Bob can give his testimony. Please support support the orate for motto for state reptile of Kansas. Thank you.

3/24/86
Attachment #4

Kirt Bocox
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

Hello, my name is Kirt Bocox. I am in the sixth grade class in Caldwell, Kansas. As you know our ultimate goal is to get the ornate box turtle state reptile of Kansas.

The following editorial was taken from the Sunday, 10 November 1985 issue of THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON, page 2B, Editorial Page, George Neavoll, Editor / Wichita, Kansas 67202.

Ornate Box Turtle for State Reptile

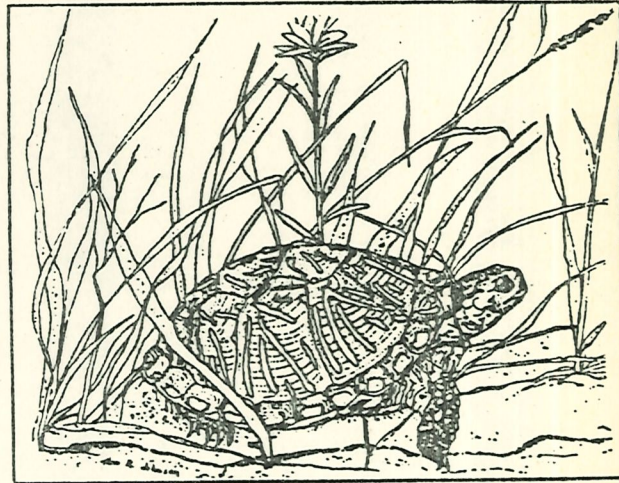
W E the students in the sixth-grade class in Caldwell, Kansas, feel that Kansas should have a state reptile, the letter began. "We also feel that the ornate box turtle would be a good choice for such an animal." The 18 students who signed the letter obviously had done their research. They make a convincing case for this latest addition to the list of state symbols.

"The ornate box turtle is found in all parts of Kansas," they noted. "It is often observed by Kansans, and liked by most. It is native to our state. It is a harmless animal."

The youngsters not only have their facts right, they have a sense of history. "We will soon celebrate the 125th birthday of Kansas," they wrote. "Let's make the ornate box turtle the official state reptile as part of that celebration. What a present!"

What a present, indeed. The ornate box turtle is the distinctive turtle of the plains and prairies, and is as much a part of this great land as the bison (the state mammal), the western meadowlark (the state bird) and the sunflower (the state flower). It is as widely admired as the eastern cottonwood (the state tree) and the honey bee (the state insect). It is Kansas, through and through, and deserves recognition as such.

Though some states have state reptiles, none has the ornate box turtle. It would be uniquely Kansan, then, and an intriguing representative of the state. When the red man arrived in Kansas, centuries ago, the ornate box turtle was here; and when the first white settlers came, the ornate box turtle greeted them. It's as likely to be encountered tromping across the beautiful



Tom R. Johnson

Ornate box turtle: A birthday gift for Kansas

Flint Hills region as the sandhills country of the Arkansas River lowlands; to be munching grasshoppers on the High Plains as gobbling wild berries in the Smoky Valley.

Every Kansan knows and loves the ornate box turtle. That's why it's such a good idea to make it our state reptile. And when that happens — as we trust it will, without legislative debate devolving into the asinine silliness that so often marks such matters — future Kansans can thank: Aaron Lowe, Tammy Wittum, Misty Thompson, Mandy Struble, Kirt Bocox, Mark Kolarik, Julia Shoffner, Andrea Stetz, Julie Shellhammer, Stacy Volavka, Amy Green, Kristy Goodman, Mary Morris, Shane Schmidt, Jeff Wolff, Scott Wickery, Tim Ward and Jeff Hicks.

★ They and their teacher, Larry Miller, have put together a serious proposal, and deserve to have it considered as such. Anybody who agrees should contact his or her legislator today.

Support SB 744

3/24/86
Attachment #5

Kristy Goodman
Caldwell, KS
24 March 1986

Testimony on senate bill No 774

Hello, I'm Kristy Goodman 6th grade student, Caldwell Elem Caldwell KS

We the students in the sixth grade class feel that Kansas should have a state reptile. The ornate box turtle is found all over Kansas. Its often observed by Kansans and liked by most. Its a native animal to our state and is a harmless animal

My class recived many letters dealing with our project to have the ornate box turtle named the official state reptile of Kansas. Thank you very much for taking the time to write us

We have written over 500 letters dealing with the ornate box turtle. We have been gaining support from many news letters, school newspapers, organizations and individuals

The picture of the ornate box turtle was drawn by Tom R Johnson. He gave us permission to use the drawings on buttons, t-shirts and stickers

We hope you agree with our project and make the ornate box turtle for state reptile of KS we appreciate your time and hope you'll consider the ornate box turtle bill

3/24/86
Attachment #6

Harcy Uolaska
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No 744

My name is Harcy Uolaska. I am representing the 6th grade class in Caldwell, Kansas. I'd like to give you some reasons why Senate Bill 744 the ornate box turtle bill, should go through. The ornate box turtle is native to Kansas, it wears the Kansas colors yellow, and brown. It is gentle and would represent our state very well. The ornate box turtle is a harmless reptile unless you touch it or bother it. The ornate box turtle is a good friend to the Kansas Farmers.

We have already gained support from a number of organizations like National Wildlife Confederation, and KNEA and a number of individuals. We hope you will take time to consider our box turtle bill.

Thank you for your time
and cooperation

3/24/86
Attachment #7

Julia Shoffner
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

Distinguished Kansans,

Hello. I am very proud to be here today to speak for the Ornate Box Turtle for State Reptile of Kansas. My class is here today because we feel that Kansas **DESERVES** a State Reptile. My name is Julia Shoffner and I am a 6th grader from Caldwell. My classmates and I have traveled 180 miles and it has been worth it! I am very excited about our project. It is a privilege for me to talk to you about something our class believes in so strongly.

As you realize, the Ornate Box Turtle is conservative, is native to all parts of Kansas and carries his home on his back, similar to our Kansas forefathers with their covered wagons. The turtle is a good friend to the Kansas farmers and it also wears the Kansas colors, yellow and brown.

I am proud to be a Kansan, and proud of my proud of my school and classmates. It has been an important year for me as I have learned so much about this

Legislative Process, I have learned alot about the Ornate Box Turtle this year and know this simple Reptile will make an excelent Symbol for Kansas, I hope you will consider this when you cast your vote in the Senate.

I appreciate your time and interest in my class and this bill.

We know this will be a deserving and enhancing state symbol for Kansas. Thanks you for your valuable time and support.

3/24/86
Attachment #8

Tim Ward
Caldwell, Ke.
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate bill no. 744.

Distinguished Senators my name is Tim Ward
and we have traveled the long distance from Caldwell
to Topeka because we want the ornate box turtle
named the official state reptile of Kansas I will
now leave it to my fellow colleagues to tell
you why.

3/24/86
Attachment #9

Julie Shellhammer
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Julie Shellhammer. I am from the 6th grade class in Caldwell, KS. I am here to talk to you about our project, to get the ornate box turtle for state reptile of Kansas.

The ornate box turtle ranges in size from 10-15cm. It has high-domed, bony carapace. The carapace is dark to reddish brown and usually has a yellow middorsal stripe, yellow lines also radiate out from the center of the scute.

The sixth grade class in Caldwell, Kansas have been writing letters. So far our sixth grade class have written well over 500 hundred letters. Our whole school has written about 1,000 letters. We have much support from schools such as Rose Hill, Junction City, South Haven, Cheney, Belle Plain, Windfield, and many more. We also have support from individuals and educational organizations such as the Kansas Association of Teachers

and Biology, and also wildlife organizations and more.

We know the ornate box turtle should become state reptile of Kansas because it lives in all parts of Kansas, is a native animal of Kansas, is a good symbol for long life, wears the Kansas colors yellow & brown, it carries its home on its back like the settlers did in the older days, and is a industrious reptile, it is harmless, and it will not bite unless you hurt the turtle. The long life it has is 50-123 years old.

Since this is the year Kansas is 125 years old. It would be a good time for Kansas to have a state reptile.

Thank you for your time,

3/24/86
Attachment #10

Mandy Struble
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

My fellow Kansans,

My name is Mandy Struble. I'm representing the 6th Grade class in Caldwell, Kansas. As you already know we are trying to get the ornate box turtle for state reptile of Kansas. I'm now going to give facts why we think it should be the state reptile. The ornate box turtle is found in all parts of Kansas. They stay in Kansas year after year. They can survive the extremes of Kansas weather, for example, in the winter they hibernate below the frost line to keep from freezing. They are found mostly in the spring and summer months. Their favorite temperature is 60° to 95°F. This turtle's favorite type of area is grassy land which Kansas has a lot of. It also has the Kansas colors, yellow & brown, like the other fine Kansas symbols. This is only a few reasons why we and many other honorable Kansans

think the ornate box turtle should be the state
reptile. ^{of Mo} Thank you for your time. We know you
will support us.

3/24/86
Attachment #11

Aaron Lowe
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

Hi, My name is Aaron Lowe.
I am from the 6th grade class
in Caldwell, Ks. Our ultimate
goal is to get the ornate box turtle
named the official state reptile.

It is a small terrestrial animal
It is found in mostly grassy areas.
The ornate box turtle favors temperature
is 60-95 degrees.

These are a few facts about
the ornate box turtle.

Thank you very
much!

3/24/86
Attachment #12

Tommy Wittum
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March, 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

Hello. My name is Tommy Wittum. I'm here to tell you why Senate Bill 744, the ornate box turtle bill, should go through and make the ornate box turtle the official state reptile.

We feel this gentle reptile would do a good job of representing our brilliant state, Kansas. It lives many years, is harmless, is found in all parts of Kansas, and almost every Kansan knows it, and likes it.

We have already gained support from a number of organizations, such as the National Audubon Society, and the Kansas Herpetological Society. If given the chance, the ornate box turtle will become the state reptile of Kansas. Please consider our bill.

Thank you.

3/24/86
Attachment #13

Amy Green
Caldwell, KS.
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

I'm Amy Green from the Caldwell 6th grade class in Caldwell, KS. I'm here to talk to you about the SB. 744 to get the ornate box turtle named the official state reptile of Kansas. Here are some reasons why the ornate box turtle should be named the official state reptile of Kansas. The ornate box turtles colors are yellow + brown. It lives along time. It is possible for it to live over 100 years. The ornate box turtle is native to Kansas. It can be found in all parts of Kansas. It is harmless to people unless you tease it. Even though it is harmless we suggest to you that you do not keep it, because all animals should be free as the Kansas winds.

This would be a great birthday present for Kansas 125th birthday.

Thank you for your time.

Misty Thompson
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March, 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

Hello my name is Misty Thompson. I am sure you all know now why my classmates and I are here. I came to prove that the ornate box turtle should be a state symbol. I know you all are trying to give the bill a fair chance, and I want to tell you why I think it should be a state symbol.

It is a native animal, and can be found in all parts of Kansas. It is a attractive animal just like most charming Kansans. It also carries its home on its back just like many early pioneers did as they traveled to Kansas from the east. It is a cautious and conservative animal. The ornate box turtle also is a good friend to the farmers. I think

that these reasons along with the other testimony
that you are hearing should be accurate for your
decision. Thank you for your time.

3/24/86
Attachment #15

Scott Wickery
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

Hi my name is Scott Wickery and I am a member of the sixth grade class in Caldwell, KS, and I am here to talk to you about the ornate box turtle for the official state reptile of Kansas. I am going to give you the four most important reasons to have the ornate box turtle the state reptile of Kansas.

1. The ornate box turtle is native to Kansas.
2. It can be found in all parts of Kansas.
3. The ornate box turtle has the support of professional educators, school children, adults, and legislative from across the state.
4. It is gentle and conservative animal.

Thank you time

3/24/86
Attachment #16

Mary Morris
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744.

"Hi" My name is Mary Morris.
I would like to say a little about the ornate box turtle.

The ornate box turtle is a native animal to Kansas. They are a harmless animal. Several people have tried to study the animals, but quite often the animal lives longer than the resurture. The ornate box turtle likes grassy lands. In some parts of Kansas you can find a ornate box turtle every acre.

I would now like to tell you about some support we have. We have resived many letters, and writen many letters. We have have support from many schools and organizations such as, KHS, Rose Hill Middel School, Junkshin City, and many more.

Thank you for your time.

3/24/86
Attachment #17

Andrea Stetz
Caldwell, Ks.
March 24, 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 744

Hello! My name is Andrea Stetz. I am here to talk about the ornate box turtle, and give some reasons why the ornate box turtle should be the state reptile of Kansas. The ornate box turtle is native to Kansas, it wears the Kansas colors yellow, and brown, and it is a good symbol for long life.

I'm sure that every one as a child and as an adult has taken the time to stop and admire and possibly pick up an ornate box turtle. We would like for you to allow this animal to be honored.

We feel that future Kansans will respect the ornate box turtle even more if it is designated the official state reptile of Kansas.

Mark Kolarik
Caldwell, Kansas
24 March 1986

Testimony on Senate Bill no. 744.

Hello = my name is Mark Kolarik from the 6th grade in Caldwell, KS. I am sure you know of our attempts to get the *Ferrapene ornata ornata* or common name ornate box turtle the official state reptile of our fine state. I would like to list the reasons & the characteristics of the ornate box turtle. First, the reasons.

- ① This year as you know, KS. is 125 years old. The ornate box would be an ever lasting 125th birthday present for Kansas.
- ② The ornate box turtles shell is very similar to the pioneers covered wagons.
- ③ This turtle is a very conservative and cautious reptile.
- ④ He can survive the extremes of the KS. weather just like a good hardy Kansan.

⑤ The box turtle is a very attractive reptile, just like most personable Kansans. Ornate means decorated.

Kansas does not have a state reptile.

⑦ This turtle is a friend of the K.S. farmer.

⑧ The box turtle is a very harmless reptile.

⑨ This turtle is known & liked by most Kansans.

⑩ He is native to K.S. & is found all over K.S.

Now its characteristics:

The ornate box turtle is a land turtle. It and its close relative the three toed box turtle are the only land turtles found in K.S. It is easily identified by its high domed brown with yellow marked shell. You can tell the male from the female because the male has red eyes & the female have yellow

Now that I have stated a few reasons and just a few of its features, are there any questions?

Thank you for your time & I know
you will support the ornate box turtle for
state reptile.

L.B. 744