

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 1:30 p.m. on February 24, 2010, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Lisa Benlon- excused
Representative Steve Huebert- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Julian Efird, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Kay Wolf, (Attachment 1)
Representative Sharon Schwartz, (Attachment 2)
Nancy Goulden, Co-Chair, Kansas Native Plant Society (Attachment 3)
Leah Heathcote, South High, Shawnee Mission (Attachment 4)
Elizabeth Willer, South High, Shawnee Mission (Attachment 5)
Valerie Wright, Education Director, Konza Environmental Education Programs, KSU (Attachment 6)
Cael Budke, Chase County Elementary School (Attachment 7)
SammyJo Peterson, Chase County Middle School (Attachment 8)
Joseph Stout, Chase County Elementary School (Attachment 9)

Written testimony was received from the following:

Karen Hibbard, Director, Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau (Attachment 10)
Marci Penner, Director, Kansas Sampler Foundation (Attachment 11)
Alan Pollom, State director, Kansas Chapter, The Nature Conservancy (Attachment 12)
Jim Smith, Director, Dillon Nature Center (Attachment 13)
Larry "Dee" Scherich, Merrill Ranch, Comanche County (Attachment 14)
Michael Haddock, Assistant Dean, K-State Libraries (Attachment 15)
Jim Hoy, Director, Center for Great Plains Studies at ESU (Attachment 16)
John Strickler, Kansas Chapter, The Nature Conservancy (Attachment 17)
Judy Stanton, Johnson County Master Gardner (Attachment 18)
Original signatures of 291 students at Corinth Elementary School, (Attachment 19)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Ruiz moved for the introduction of two bills: (a) regarding the Cemetery Trust Fund and (b) the Maintenance of Cemetery Trust Fund at the request of Diane Minear of the Secretary of State's office. Motion was seconded by Representative Fund. Motion carried.

Representative Brown moved the introduction of legislation regarding eminent domain proceedings in the Kansas Department of Transportation at the request of Representative Powell. Motion was seconded by Representative Knox. Motion carried.

Representative Loganbill moved to the introduction of legislation which would add gender orientation to the discrimination addressed in the Americans with Disability Act. Motion was seconded by Representative Ruiz. Motion carried.

Representative Kiegerl moved for the approval of the minutes of February 2, 4, 8, and 9. Motion was seconded by Representative Grant. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 24, 2010, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Hearing on HB 2649 - Designating little bluestem (schizachyrium scoparium) as the state grass of Kansas

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes explained the bill as being straight forward in naming the Little Bluestem as the state grass of Kansas.

Representative Kay Wolf reviewed the history of her involvement with the Junior Master Gardner program at Corinth Elementary School in Prairie Village and with the Shawnee Mission South High School in their attempt to have Little Bluestem named as the state grass of Kansas (Attachment 1).

Representative Sharon Schwartz testified in support of the bill which would name the Little Bluestem the Kansas grass (Attachment 2). She spoke of the beauty of the native grasses, the adaptability of the Little Bluestem to survive in a semi-dry climate, and the importance of the grass to the cattle industry.

Dr. Nancy Goulden, representing the Kansas Native Plant society and its Committee to Support Little Bluestem for Kansas State Grass testified this grass is found in every county of the state and grows well in the three mixed grass prairies (Attachment 3). The naming of this grass would cost the state nothing and would become an icon to symbolize the prairie. Prairies are becoming more important as a tourism magnet i.e. the Tallgrass Wildflower Weekend and the annual Symphony in the Flint Hills.

Leah Heathcote, freshman at Shawnee Mission South, testified that the Little Bluestem is the logical choice for the state grass as it is the only grass to grow statewide (Attachment 4). The grass is a food source and habitat for both wildlife and domesticated herbivores.

Elizabeth Willer, freshman at Shawnee Mission South, informed the Committee of the fall beauty of the Little Bluestem when it turns red orange (Attachment 5).

Dr. Valerie Wright, Education Director of the Konza Prairie Environmental Education Program, testified on the importance of Kansas children to interact with the natural world (Attachment 6). By passage of this bill the Little Bluestem will become a symbol of our prairie state, like the bison, sunflower and cottonwood tree. She stressed the importance of children learning to appreciate their prairie heritage and conserving the ecosystem.

Cael Budke, student at Chase County Elementary School, told how he had learned to appreciate the natural beauty of Kansas and its symbols (Attachment 7).

Sammy Jo Peterson, student at Chase County Middle School, explained to the Committee the importance of Little Bluestem grass to the beef cattle industry (Attachment 8). Her school is teaching the symbols of Kansas and she thinks the children will learn to respect the animals, trees, and grasses of their environment.

Joseph Stout, student at Chase County Elementary School, spoke of his interest in the grasslands as he hopes to become a fifth-generation rancher in Chase County (Attachment 9). The Little Bluestem is vital to the ranching industry as it is nutritious forage for cattle as well as a good winter feed.

Dr. Goulden summarized the presentation by emphasizing the renewed interest by the public in the prairie and the importance of educating them on the unique ecosystem found in Kansas.

Representative Kiegerl moved to report the bill favorably for passage and place it on the Consent Calendar. Motion was seconded by Representative Bowers. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb 24, 2010

NAME	REPRESENTING
Valerie Wright	Konza Prairie
Mollie Wold	Chase County Elem School
Wendy Buckler	Chase County High School
Geri Stout	Chase County Elem School
Jerry Miller	Chase County Elem School
Jennifer Stephenson	Bedgwick County
Myrna Campbell	Interested citizen
Nancy Guedes	Kansas Native Plant Society
Annie Baker	Interested Citizen / Konza Prairie
Jeff Hansen	KS Native Plant Soc.
Fred Coombs	Ks Native Plant Soc.
Nancy Coombs	KS Native Plant Society
Mickey Delfelder	"
Sturdy Delfelder	"
Jim Mathew	KS Native Plant Society
GREGG DUGUID	Observer
Kate Watson	Kansas of Olde
Sharon Dellinger	Out + 106

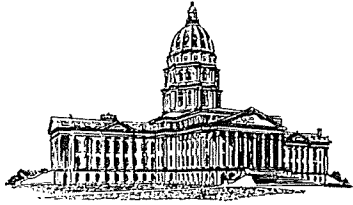
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: _____

NAME	REPRESENTING
Randy Peterson	CHASE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Ginny Peterson	CHASE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Sammy Jo Peterson	CHASE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
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8339 Roe Avenue
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(913) 649-0699

Kay Wolf
Representative, 21st District

TO: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Testimony: In support of HB 2649

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity of addressing you today. Prior to November of last year, I knew very little about Little Bluestem or about our prairies. A constituent, Judy Stanton, contacted me to ask if I might help in the effort to name Little Blue Stem as the state grass. A bill had been introduced a few years back by Representative Kevin Yoder but had never come to the floor for a vote.

Judy is a master gardener and is presently assisting with the junior master gardener program at Cornith Elementary School in Prairie Village. The junior master gardener program encourages 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to learn about various plants and their importance to our society and environment. They meet once a month and this year have 29 students enrolled.

Judy heard about the effort made by Jan Alderson's Shawnee Mission South High School a few years back to name the state grass Little Blue Stem. She decided it would be beneficial for her junior master gardener's to study native plants of Kansas which included Little Blue Stem.

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Attachment 1

The class was very excited to learn more about Little Bluestem and the part it played in Kansas history. They learned it is native to Kansas and grows in all counties and is found in all prairie types - tall, short and mixed. They learned Kansas is primarily an agricultural state and the cattle industry plays a large role in the economic growth of Kansas. Little Blue Stem is a source of food for cattle dependent on native grasses and is very nutritious.

Our surrounding states all have State grasses and in fact Missouri's is Big Blue. Naming a state grass would aid children and adults to learn the importance and value of the prairie and native grasses to our state.

I visited the school, talked with the children and saw the dedication they exhibited to being a part of legislation for the naming of a state grass. They were excited and engaged. They live in an urban area but are learning about Kansas history and the importance of the prairie to our state. I stand in support of HB 2649 and hope you will also. There are many experts behind me that know much more than I do and will explain in more depth why Little Bluestem should be our State grass. Thank you for your attention and I stand for questions.

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CHAIR
Local Government Committee
Select KPERS Committee

HB 2649

Testimony for the Federal and State Committee

February 24, 2010

Chairman Neufeld and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2649 which would designate "Little Bluestem" as the Kansas State Grass. While many like to joke about taking the time to designate a state grass, I have several reasons to support this measure.

For those who have not taken time to stop and enjoy the a few minutes at the Konza Prairie south of Manhattan, you have missed out on a wonderful experience; the view, the serenity, and beauty of the our native grasses. The deep roots of "Little Blue Stem" sustain the semi-dry climate and hold the soil in place, securing the beautiful landscape. Kansas is still primarily an Agricultural State with a large cattle industry dependent on native grasses. It is important to highlight the value and importance of the native grasses to this industry. "Little Bluestem is found in all three prairie types and grows in every county in Kansas.

Background

I was contacted last summer by volunteers at Konza State Park who asked if I would assist them in furthering their efforts to designate the "Little Blue Stem" as

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Attachment 2

the Kansas State Grass. I know they will outline their reasons in more detail for this request.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have regarding HB2649.

Chairperson Neufeld; Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee.

PART I

My name is Nancy Goulden. I am a board member the Kansas Native Plant Society, and am currently serving as Vice-president and co-chair of the KNPS Committee to Support Little Bluestem for Kansas State Grass.

Whenever, we have talked to either legislators or the general public about HB2649 to name Little Bluestem as Kansas State Grass, two specific concerns are always raised. First, "Why Little Bluestem instead of some other grass?" The other is that the initiative will take time and money away from critical issues the legislature must confront." Below are our responses.

We have a number of beautiful and useful native grasses, but only one can be named. What is most important is to have a grass as a state icon to symbolize the prairie. We also need to make sure the specific grass chosen is representative of the whole state. Of our native grasses, Little Bluestem is the only one that is found in every county of Kansas and grows in short, tall, and mixed grass prairies.

Spending related to naming a state grass is really a non-issue. There is no request for funding attached to this bill. It will cost the state nothing. This bill is short, straight forward, easy to understand. If it is a distraction, I would think it might be a very welcome one. It is light and positive, but not trivial. The bill will provide only positive benefits to Kansas school children, our citizens, and the state.

I am going to next first fill you in on the role of the Kansas Native Plant Society in this campaign. As you may know, KNPS is a state-wide organization of over 500 members. The possibility of naming a state grass was first introduced to the Board of Directors about five years ago.

Such a proposal and the makeup and activities of KNPS are a natural fit. Most of our members live within easy distance of pastures and prairies. Especially during the warmer months of the year, we organize and lead numerous walks to introduce the public throughout the state to our native plants. The preponderance of these outings are grassland explorations. Kansas prairies are our most familiar and treasured ecosystem.

However, the motivation to embrace the cause of a naming a state grass, was not just the proximity of grasslands. The KNPS Mission Statement further explains why the KNPS Board felt we must become involved in this cause. "The mission of the Kansas Native Plant society is to **encourage awareness and appreciation** of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting **education, stewardship,** and scientific knowledge. Because having a grass as a state symbol would give us additional opportunities to work toward these goals, the KNPS Board did what most boards do, formed a committee and committed the society to doing what we could to see that a state grass was named.

Kansas Native Plant Society did not start this "grassroots" movement. Appropriately, it originated in a Kansas classroom in Shawnee Mission and one of their students will tell you more how it started and how it impacted their study about the prairie. This is not really KNPS's campaign, but belongs to Kansas school students. However, it became clear, this task was big enough and challenging enough for KNPS to help with organization, communication, and creating teaching and learning materials

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Attachment 3

about Little Bluestem. To these ends, we created a Little Blue area on our website with information and classroom activities for both elementary and secondary students. In your packet is a sample of one those classroom activities for younger students, "Little Blue's Story." KNPS also established a list serve for teachers. There are now 16 classroom from across the state on the list. We have provided teachers with updates of the legislative process and encouraged them in their prairie activities and citizenship involvement.

The benefits that will result from naming a state grass fit into roughly four categories: education, economic value (primarily through the cattle industry), conservation and promotion/tourism.

PART II

We are asking the committee today to take another step in the process of naming a new state icon.. Little Bluestem would be the first new icon since 1994, the first of the new century. Marci Penner, the director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation and a supporter of naming Little Bluestem as our state grass reminds us in a 2005 interview, "Our state symbols link us to our heritage." There is something about an image of prairie grass blowing in the wind that sends the memories of both Kansas natives and those from other areas back to stories of homesteading, cattle drives, cowboys, and one-room country schools.

This proposal for such a symbol comes along at a very apt time. Kansans and visitors both seem to have rediscovered and find new value in our prairies. Both in-state and out-of-state visitors are eagerly coming in large numbers to such events as the Symphony in the Flint Hills and Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Wildflower Weekend to enjoy the wonder of the grasslands.

I'm reminded of another comment by Marci Penner about icons. "Symbols make us unique and touch base with our roots and souls." Talking with Symphony visitors on KNPS walks and displays at the symphony event, we have seen a passion grow each year just to be on the prairie and learn more about the plants and prairie.

Last fall at the Tallgrass Wildflower Weekend, I talked with visitors from both the east and west coasts who deliberately made Tallgrass a special stop on their trips, in order to see the grass. They stood mesmerized, looking out from the upper level of the barn at the panorama of rust-colored grass on the hills, moving in waves by the wind.

No other present or proposed icon has as close a connection with the prairie as Little Bluestem. In addition, it is aesthetically pleasing . As Jim Smith, Director of the Dillion Nature Center, said in his written testimony. "Little Bluestem is really the perfect grass for such a designation. It is probably our most beautiful native grass that reaches its peak of beauty in fall and winter."

We believe that what is true for KNPS is also true for most Kansans. They too live in or near our grasslands; they want our children to learn to know, appreciate, and experience the natural world; they want both citizens and visitors to realize we must take care of our prairie land or it will continue to diminish. Can just naming a state grass really help us achieve such aims? KNPS believes picking this image of a native grass to remind ourselves and others of this unique natural world outside our doors is a valuable first step.

Little Blue's Story

Story by Dr. Nancy Goulden
Illustrations by Kelly Harranty



On a sunny day somewhere between summer and fall, Little Bluestem was gently swaying back and forth in the breeze. Blue's white fluffy seed curls on their red-orange stalks moved a little with each puff of air.

Sunny, a native wild Sunflower, grew just a short distance away and called out to Little Blue, "You look very happy. What are you thinking about?"

"I am happy." Blue replied. "I love Kansas. Most days the sun shines. Just the right amount of rain falls so I can always find water with my long roots. Best of all, the people of Kansas come out on the prairie and visit me and talk about my friendly seed heads and colorful stalks. Did you know my family has lived on this hill for hundreds of years?"

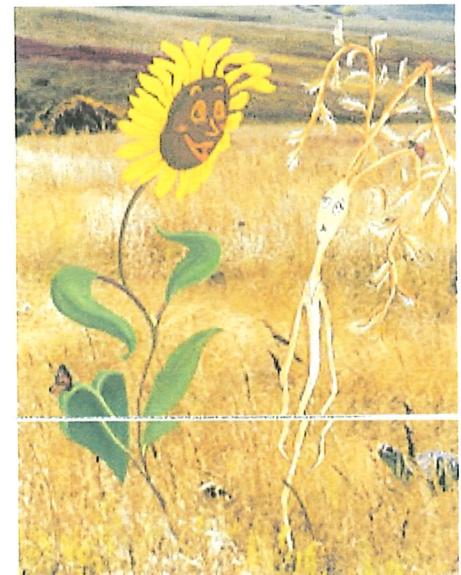
"My family has been here a long time, too." Sunny replied. "Actually though, the hikers and school children are probably coming out to see me, not you. Kansans really like sunflowers. They decided that the wild native Sunflower should be the State Flower. I guess that's because we're tall and have such pretty yellow flowers. When people think of Kansas, they think of sunflowers."

Little Blue just said "Oh."

The Cottonwood tree, Woody, down by the creek heard their conversations and said, "Sunflower, you're not the only one who is important. I'm the State Tree of Kansas. I'm very tall and stand up higher than all the grasses and other plants, even you. Besides I have very handsome shiny green leaves."

Little Bluestem stopped bouncing in the breeze and lowered her seed heads. Again she softly said, "Oh."

About this time, Western Meadowlark, Larkie, flew up and landed on one of Sunny's strong branches. "What's all this talk about Kansas State symbols? I'm the Kansas State Bird, you know."





There was rustling in the grass. Everyone looked down and saw the bright yellow lines on the shell of Ornie, the Ornate Box Turtle. "Hey guys. I'm a state symbol too. I'm the State Reptile."

Little Blue felt sad and left out. Everyone was a state symbol, but not her. She looked up and said. "I don't understand. I just see four or five sunflowers in our part of the prairie. Maybe a couple of meadowlarks fly by every day or so. There are only two cottonwood trees by our creek. And Ornie is the only box turtle that has ever come by. BUT all around are hundreds and hundreds of grasses. Why don't we have a State Grass?"

Meadowlark replied. "You know you're right, Blue. I fly all over and look down and can see that Kansas has more grass growing in natural places than anything else. Besides, Kansas is one of the few places left in the whole country where there

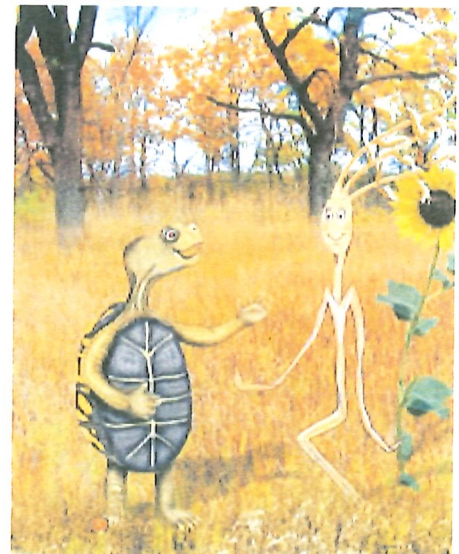
are large patches of native prairie covered with grass. There should be a state grass, and I think it should be Little Bluestem. But I don't know how a State Symbol is chosen."

Ornie, the box turtle answered. "I do because I was named State Reptile just a few years ago. The school children of Kansas pick a plant or animal that they think represents Kansas well. Then they write letters, draw pictures, and make up stories and poems about the thing they want to be a State Symbol. They ask their teachers to send them to the people in Topeka in our state government who decide which symbols to pick."

"Well, then that's easy" said Sunny. "We just ask the girls and boys in Kansas schools to let the people in Topeka know that Little Blue should be named the Kansas State Grass and they will take care of it."

Little Blue's stalks, with their fluffy white seed heads, were standing up straight and she'd started dancing in the breeze again. "Do you really think the school students of Kansas would do that?"

WELL, BOYS AND GIRLS - WHAT DO YOU THINK?



To: Chairman Melvin Neufeld, Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Leah Heathcote, Freshman at SMSD South High School, Honors Biology 1
RE: Testifying about having Little Blue Stem as the Kansas State Grass
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

My name is Leah Heathcote, a freshman at South High in the Shawnee Mission School District. The Honors Biology 1 classes initiated this effort to name Little Blue Stem as the State Grass of Kansas five years ago. Because most other grassland states have state grasses, it is important for Kansas to have a state grass as well.

We feel that the Little Blue Stem would be the logical choice since it is one of the most common roadside grasses in Kansas, the public would find it familiar. It is also so hardy, is a NATIVE grass which grows throughout all of Kansas and is the only one to do so.

Wildlife and domesticated herbivores use it for food and as habitat. Trampling, drought, and strange soil types do not deter it from growing and thriving. We should therefore be proud to name Little Blue Stem as our Kansas State Grass.

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Attachment 4

To: Chairman Melvin Neufield, Federal and Stat Affairs Committee
From: Elizabeth Willer, freshman at SMSD South High School, Honors Biology 1
RE: Testifying about having the Little Blue Stem as the Kansas State Grass
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

My name is Elizabeth Willer, a freshman at South High in the Shawnee Mission School District. The Honors Biology 1 classes initiated this effort to name Little Blue Stem as the State Grass of Kansas five years ago. I feel that the Little Blue Stem would be an amazing grass because it grows even in "salty" soil, and it grows everywhere in Kansas!!!

And I love the fall color of the Little Blue stem which turns a red orange and I would love to plant it in my yard now that I know that!! Thank you greatly for your consideration and time.

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To: Chairman Melvin Neufeld and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

My name is Valerie Wright and I am co-chair of the Kansas Native Plant Society committee to support the state grass initiative and a past president of KNPS. I am also the Education Director of the Konza Prairie Environmental Education Program. I would like to speak from my role as a prairie naturalist and educator.

The mission of the Konza Environmental Education Program has been to inform the public, especially school children, about the prairie ecosystem. This is called place-based education, where children learn first about where they live. Although the heritage of the prairies is strong in Kansas, many children and adults who live in our cities and towns do not know the value of the prairies as a renewable natural resource and agricultural base.

Children in this electronic age need help in connecting to the natural world. Governor Sebelius' executive order of last April formed the Kansas Coalition for Children in Nature, based on the premise that it is of prime importance to create opportunities for Kansas children to interact with the natural world. At Konza Prairie we provide such opportunities for about 5000 visitors each year. We offer special hikes, bison tours and ecological activities for students. My firsthand experience with children learning about the prairie matches the written testimony before you of Alan Pollom, State Director of The Nature Conservancy and Jim Smith, Director of the Dillon Nature Center in Hutchinson. Children respond to grasslands like "going home." They are amazed to be in and surrounded by grass, wildflowers, sky and horizon. They show how the experience moves them in journals and poems.

And the experience stays with them. One of the teachers I work with at the alternative high school in Junction City uses the memory of the outdoor experience at Konza Prairie to bring her students to all kinds of learning throughout the year. Science, math, language arts, and social studies all can be taught through an understanding of grasslands. With your help, we can offer this enduring experience to ALL the children of Kansas by passing this bill. For no cost, the naming of a state grass will impact EVERY child in Kansas. Little Bluestem will become the symbol of our prairie state, like the bison, sunflower and cottonwood tree. These are fundamental icons that represent "natural" Kansas to students, residents and visitors.

This bill requires no funding but is a major step in the education of all Kansas school children concerning our prairie heritage, the value of our grasslands to the economy of this state and the importance of conservation of the prairie ecosystem. Kansas is fortunate to have major tracts of native prairie for grazing, for hay, for its amazing beauty and aesthetic value. A state like Iowa has lost 99.9% of its original prairie and is now attempting to reconstruct prairies at great cost.

We have the opportunity to keep our tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills, the mixed grass prairies of central Kansas and the short grass prairies of the western counties by acting to educate our population, whether urban or rural, about the grasslands. If we do not, the gradual loss of prairie ecosystems will surely change our state.

Dee Scherich of Merrill Ranch in Comanche County, says it so well: "Where will the public support for ranching come in the next generation? Will our children view pastures as wasted space? Will our grasslands disappear to development?"

The students in Jan Alderson's biology class began the process to name a state grass in 2005. Since

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Attachment 6

then thousands of children have practiced writing letters of persuasion to their representatives as part of this process. They are the next generation of voters. After studying the prairie grasses, they chose Little Bluestem because of its attributes and its occurrence and importance in every county in Kansas. **Let's respect the students' research and their initiative, send them a positive message and endorse their selection for state grass.**

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

6-2

Committee Chair Neufeld and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. My name is Cael Budke and I am a student at Chase county Elementary School.

I first learned about Kansas symbols when I was in Kindergarten. I learned the honey bee was the state insect. I learned the cottonwood was our state tree and the meadowlark the state bird. I also learned that the box turtle was the state reptile.

When I am riding with my dad to school I look out the window and I see grass. I like to know the names of the birds, the kinds of rocks, and the grasses I see in the pastures. Little bluestem is easy to find in the winter because it is a copper colored bunch of grass. When you see it you know what it is. In the fall it looks like it has fuzzy white seeds on the ends of the stems. In the summer time it is green and the cows like to eat it.

When my brothers and I go outside, I show them bunny droppings, deer tracks and where the deer bed down. Now because I know what little bluestem looks like I can show them this grass. I think every kid should know what little bluestem is because it is important to Kansas.

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Attachment 7

Committee Chair Neufeld and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, my name is SammyJo Peterson and I am a student at Chase County Middle School.

Grassland is important to me because I help my dad raise cattle. Where I live in the Flint Hills we have the best grass for raising beef cattle. I know that little bluestem is a good grass for cattle to gain weight on. My dad and I ride the pasture on horseback and I show him the grasses I know. He teaches me about how they are important for cattle.

We learn about the symbols of Kansas in school so that we know what Kansas is all about. If kids learn the Kansas symbols, they will respect and want to take care of them. I want my friends to care about our grasslands. If they learned about the little bluestem in school, they might feel the same way I do about the Kansas Prairie.

Little Blue Stem grows in every county in Kansas. Kids all across Kansas could find it near their home. I think it is important to know all the grasses and how they are important to Kansas. Little bluestem would be a good place to start learning.

My mom is a librarian and it is important to her that I know how to read books. When my mom and I go walking the trail at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, my mom tries to name the grasses. I always need to help her. Like reading books, when kids learn about little bluestem, they can begin to read the grasses of the prairie.

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Attachment 8

Committee Chair Neufeld and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Joseph Stout and I am a student at Chase County Elementary School.

I first learned the four major grasses of the prairie when I was eight.

Grass is important to me because I someday hope to be a fifth-generation rancher.

When I am out checking cattle on horseback, I sometimes look at the grass and try to name the ones I recognize.

I hope there will always be grassland for our cattle. If kids learn about little bluestem, they will learn to appreciate the prairie more. After learning about little bluestem, it made me want to learn more. I've learned little bluestem is a nutritious forage for cattle. It also is good winter feed. It can be found in pastures with rocky soil or dry hills. It is a native perennial that is drought resistant. All of these make it important to a rancher.

In school we learn about our state flower, the sunflower, the state reptile, the box turtle, and the state amphibian, the tiger salamander. I think all kids should learn about the all-important little bluestem.

Being the state grass will make this happen.

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Attachment 9

To: Chairman Melvin Neufeld and the Committee For Federal and State Affairs

Native Grass of Kansas

Visitors and folks who call Kansas home daily dash across this great state of Kansas. Many are oblivious to the native beauty that surrounds them. Quietly waiving in the wind, dancing and casting beautiful colors across the landscape, the Little Blue Stem grass carpets the prairie.

Little Blue Stem is found in every county in Kansas. The deep roots of the grass take hold in shallow or rocky soil. This grass is rejuvenated by spring burns, which make the grass even more nutritious for grazing cattle and bison. The grass is known to be the greatest grazing pasture in the world.

In 2012, Manhattan will open the doors of The Flint Hills Discovery Center. This attraction will educate the visitor and the general public alike to the wonders of the prairie. Of the many exhibits planned, one exhibit will tell the story of the grasslands. Attendees will be fascinated to learn the story of the prairie, observe the length of the blue stem grass roots and see the illustrations which focus on the prairie ecosystem. The Flint Hills Discovery Center will aid in the visitors seeing Kansas through knowledgeable eyes.

The prairie is vital to our rich history, our present day and our bright future. The Little Blue Stem, if cared for will raise the spirits and nourish the soul.

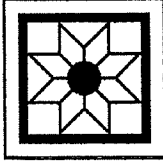
It is appropriate for Kansas to designate a State Grass. The Little Blue Stem, with its native roots, is the natural choice for this title.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hibbard, Director
Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau

House Fed & State Affairs
Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 10



Kansas Sampler Foundation
978 Arapaho Road
Inman, KS 67546
www.kansassampler.org

**Testimony in support of HB 2649 to the House Committee
on Federal and State Affairs
February 24, 2010
By Marci Penner, Director, Kansas Sampler Foundation**

Committee Chair Rep. Neufeld and members of the House Federal and State Affairs. My name is Marci Penner, director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. The mission of the non-profit Kansas Sampler Foundation is to preserve and sustain rural culture.

I'm proud to submit testimony in support of naming the Little Bluestem the state grass. Little Bluestem is abundant in Kansas, produces rich nutrients, and, like the Kansas people, is deeply rooted.

Our state symbols and when they were adopted:

- ❖ Kansas state flower: Common Sunflower, 1903.
- ❖ Kansas state bird: Western meadowlark, 1925.
- ❖ Kansas state march: *The Kansas March*, 1935 and *Here's Kansas*, 1992
- ❖ Kansas state tree: Plains Cottonwood, 1937.
- ❖ Kansas state song: *Home on the Range*, 1947.
- ❖ Kansas state animal: American Bison, 1955.
- ❖ Kansas state insect: Honeybee, 1976.
- ❖ Kansas state turtle: Ornate Box Turtle, 1986.
- ❖ Kansas state loam: Harney Silt Loam, 1990.
- ❖ Kansas state amphibian: Barred Tiger Salamander. 1994

State symbols are used as a designation to tell the public about that particular state. To read the list of symbols helps a person get to know the state and know what is common and what is valued.

Surrounding states have already selected a state grass.

- ❖ Nebraska: Little Bluestem, 1969
- ❖ Oklahoma: Indiangrass, 1972
- ❖ Colorado: Blue grama, 1987
- ❖ Missouri: Big Bluestem, 2007

Eighteen states have a state grass.

State symbols are used in promotional and educational materials. Designations are informative and fun! To showcase the point about how designations can help educate people here is the list of cities or counties that have gone through a legislative process, or less official steps through the Kansas Sampler Foundation, to become capitals of Kansas.

Air Capital, Wichita
Allis Chalmers Capital, Washington
Art Treasures Capital, Oswego

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Attachment 11

Barbed Wire Capital, LaCrosse
Bass Fishing Capital, WaKeeney
Bean Feed Capital, Erie
Black Squirrel Capital, Marysville
Bluebird Capital, Johnson County
Brome Grass Capital, Holton
Carnival Heritage Capital, Kinsley
Catfish Capital, Chetopa and Coffey County
Comic Book Capital, Morland
Covered Dish Capital, Windom
Cow Chip Capital, Russell Springs
Cowboy Boot Capital, Olathe
Cowboy Capital, Dodge City
Cutting Horse Capital, Garden City
Czech Capital, Wilson
Drovers Capital, Ellsworth County
Earthquake Capital, Palco
Fishing Capital, Geary County
Fossil Capital, Oakley
Fried Chicken Capital, Pittsburg
German Capital, Ellis County
Goose Capital, Kirwin
Grassroots Art Capital, Lucas
Greyhound Capital, Abilene
Halloween Capital, Hiawatha
Hamburger Capital, Phillips County
Historic Barn Capital, Doniphan County
Homestead Literature Capital, Osborne County
Horse Racing Capital, Eureka
Light Capital, McPherson
Lustron Home Capital, Great Bend
Milo Capital, Beattie
Mural Capital, Winfield
Museum Capital, Abilene
Natural Gas Capital, Hugoton
Original Jayhawker Capital, Mound City
Ornate Box Turtle Capital, Caldwell
Outhouse Capital, Elk Falls
Pancake Capital, Liberal
Peach Capital, Haysville
Pecan Capital, Chetopa
Pheasant Capital, Norton
Pie Capital, Washington
Pinto Bean Capital, Leoti
Plow Capital, Kingman
Post Rock Capital, Lincoln County
Prairie Chicken Capital, Cassoday
Prairie Hay Capital, Yates Center
Printing Capital, Girard
Purple Martin Capital, Parsons
Rocking Chair Capital, Cuba

Spinach Capital, Lenexa
Stained Glass Capital, Cloud County
Stock Trailer Capital, Waterville
Stone Bridge Capital, Cowley County
Storytelling Capital, Downs
Sunflower Capital, Goodland
Sunshine Capital, WaKeeney
Terra Cotta Capital, Salina
The Capital, Topeka
Threshing Show Capital, Jefferson County
Trails Capital, Marshall County
Water Sports Capital, Osage County
Watermelon Capital, Clyde & Thayer
Wheat Capital, Sumner County
White Tail Deer Capital, Longton
Wind Farm Capital, Montezuma
Wiper Fish Capital, Norton County

A person can't help but learn some things about Kansas as they read this list. The designation gives them a tag and instant recognition. The designation refers to that town's story and enhances local pride and often results in more visitors. You'll see these designations in countless ads and publications. The same is true with state symbols.

Like "capitals of Kansas", our state symbols have been chosen because of either remarkable features or common. Little bluestem is like the sunflower and cottonwood -- common but prevalent. Little bluestem is found in every county and that includes Gray, Johnson, Cloud, Sedgwick, Pottawatomie, Jackson, Lyon, Stafford, Leavenworth, Cherokee, Wyandotte, Wilson, Shawnee, and 92 others. Perhaps Big Bluestem is more impressive but then buffalo grass has served as a steady life force in a different manner. But it was Little Bluestem that got the call from a group of people that know Kansas's grasses. They gave other grasses every due consideration and decided that Little Bluestem would best represent Kansas.

On behalf of this beautiful grass that is found in every county, I'd like to add my voice to the request that Little Bluestem be named the Kansas state grass.



Testimony in support of H.B. 2649

Alan Pollom

Vice President/State Director

Kansas Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

700 SW Jackson, Suite 804

Topeka, KS 66603

apollom@tnc.org

On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

February 24, 2010

Before the Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chairman Neufeld and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of HB 2649.

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife and native lands. The Nature Conservancy and its 7,000 members in Kansas have been responsible for the direct conservation of more than 88,000 acres in our state over the past 40 years. The 8,616-acre Konza Prairie and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve are examples of this success story. It goes without saying; however, that our work stands little chance of enduring without the support of an informed and supportive public.

My wife teaches 4th grade at Pleasant Hill Elementary here in Shawnee County. Each spring she teaches a unit on wildlife and their habitats. As part of the curriculum it is common practice to look to our state symbols as a starting point for lesson plans. The lack of a designated state grass leaves an obvious gap in the teaching discussions. Native grass is the matrix habitat that has defined our state's history and sustained the array of abundant wildlife our immigrant ancestors first encountered.

Young students respond with tremendous enthusiasm when first learning about the many intricacies inherent in the web of life. Each spring my wife's students take an all day field trip to our farm to experience firsthand many elements of their wildlife habitat unit. You would find it very rewarding to hear the amazement in their voices and the moving words they write in their journals.

The goal is to develop more aware and well rounded citizens. We should facilitate that learning process by officially recognizing Little Bluestem, one of our most ubiquitous and adaptable grasses, as the state grass of Kansas.

House Fed & State Affairs

Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 12



3002 East 30th
Hutchinson, Kansas 67502
Phone: (620) 663-7411
Fax: (620) 663-7498
Website: www.dillonnaturecenter.com
E-mail: jsmith@hutchrec.com

Office of the Living Land Foundation

February 22, 2010

To: The Kansas House of Representatives
From: Jim Smith, Director of Dillon Nature Center

I am writing to support the passage of HB2649, which will officially designate Little Bluestem Grass as the Kansas State Grass. Little Bluestem is really the perfect grass for such a designation. It is probably our most beautiful native grass that reaches its peak of beauty in fall and winter.

Every year the Dillon Nature Center works with over 20,000 children from all over Kansas. Part of almost every program that we conduct has something to do with prairies and native plants. The children of Kansas do not seem to have much knowledge of our state's natural history. We feel that it is vitally important for children to have an appreciation for and understanding of the world around them and how it has changed through the years. The other state plants (i.e. sunflower, cottonwood tree, etc.) and state animals (i.e. bison, meadowlark, box turtle, etc.) have all been great educational tools that students have been able to connect with and understand a little better. Having a native prairie grass such as Little Bluestem as the State Grass will help them understand our state's prairie heritage even more.

I hope you will vote for HB2649 and make Little Bluestem the official Kansas State Grass. Thank you for considering this request.

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Attachment 13

Chairman, Melvin Neufeld and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of Kansas:

I was raised on a large ranch in Comanche County which my dad managed from 1944 to 1976. I went to college and received a bachelor's and a master's degree in biology, taught high school science for 14 years, then came back and have managed this ranch from 1976 to the present. I understand first-hand the importance of our native grasses to the cattle industry and the economic importance of the cattle industry to the entire economy of Kansas. Because grass is the most important element of the cattle industry, ranchers are interested in good grass-management techniques so there will be grass available for ensuing years. To do this we must know which grasses are nutritious and how to manage for them under varying circumstances.

The book, *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, demonstrates that "Today's kids are well aware of the global threats to the environment, but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature on a day-to-day basis, is fading." Most of us in our generation had close contact with rural Kansas either because we lived on a farm or ranch, or our grandparents, or other relatives did. We watched the cows and calves eat the native grass and thrive on it. This is not true for many of the current generation of children.

If we do not introduce our children to our native grasses and the importance of these grasses, what respect for and knowledge of them will they have as adults? Where will our ranchers, and supportive specialists, for the next generation come from? Will our children just view pastures as wasted space? Will our grasslands disappear to development?

Can your children or grandchildren identify several kinds of grass? Have they ever been challenged to?

Naming a state grass will give teachers a greater opportunity to introduce students to the prairie grasses and help them understand their importance, not only to the cattle industry, but also to help them understand how vegetation, including grasses, helps store carbon, thus reducing the greenhouse gases.

There are several other grasses that could have been selected to be the state grass including big bluestem, Indian grass and buffalo grass. This initiative is not so much about which grass is named the state grass, but that a state grass is designated.

The students in Jan Alderson's class, after studying the prairie grasses, selected Little Bluestem because of its occurrence and importance in every county in Kansas. It is in response to their initiative that the Kansas Native Plant Society have assisted them in their endeavor. **I respect the students' research and their initiative, and endorse their selection.**

Thank you for listening. Please vote "yes" and send this bill on to the legislature, and help your constituents understand why it is important. **In a time of tight budget restraints this bill does not require funding.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry "Dee" Scherich, Merrill Ranch, Comanche County, Kansas

House Fed & State Affairs
Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 14

February 22, 2010

To: Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Melvin Neufeld, Chair

I would like to express my strong support for House Bill 2649, which proposes to establish little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) as the State Grass of Kansas. Grasses are a significant component of our global vegetation. Native grasses provide forage and feed for our livestock, are a food resource for wildlife and birds and provide them with environmental habitat, and are used to prevent erosion of the soil by wind and water. Native and cultivated crop grasses are the dominant type of vegetation found in Kansas and serve as the state's primary natural resource. Grasses have a major economic importance to the state through the critical role that they play for our livestock industry.

Since the publication of my book, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas* in 2005, I have given nearly sixty presentations on our Kansas flora to audiences in all parts of the state. A question that I have been asked on numerous occasions is: "Why doesn't Kansas have a state grass"? It is a bit embarrassing to tell audiences that Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) is the state grass for Oklahoma, side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) the state grass of Texas, and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) the state grass of Missouri, but that Kansas has no officially designated state grass. The proposal to make little bluestem our state grass would honor the significant position that Kansas native grasses occupy, both historically and present day.

As a member of the Kansas Native Plant Society and the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management, I urge the committee to please give positive consideration to House Bill 2649.

Thank you sincerely for your time!

Warm regards,

Michael Haddock
Assistant Dean
Research, Education and Engagement Division
K-State Libraries
504D Hale Library
Manhattan, KS 66506

Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide, University Press of Kansas, 2005. Selected as a 2006 Kansas Notable Book by the State Library of Kansas and Kansas Center for the Book.

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Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 15

To: Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee, Melvin Neufeld, Chair

From: Jim Hoy, Director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at Emporia State University

As a student of ranching folklife (my books include *Cowboys and Kansas*, *Flint Hills Cowboys*, and *Riding Point: A Centennial History of the Kansas Livestock Association*), as well as from my upbringing on a ranch near Cassoday, I have had a lifetime of experience with grass, from looking after cattle to raking prairie hay with a team of mules. Thus I am pleased that the legislature is considering the naming of a state grass.

Kansas lies in the center of a great North American grassland that, before settlement and plowing, reached from Indiana and Kentucky to the Rocky Mountains, from the Rio Grande into Canada. Even today grasses dominate Kansas, although much of that grass is now fescue and brome, wheat and corn. Of the hundreds of varieties of native grasses here, it seems to me that two dominate in the popular mind: buffalo grass and bluestem.

When I first learned of the movement to name Little Bluestem as the state grass, I thought that a good case could be made for buffalo grass. I also thought, why not Big Bluestem, the redwood of grasses with its nine-foot stems topped by its distinctive turkey foot seed pods? Upon reflection, however, I realized that not only is Little Bluestem a major grass on the ridges and valleys of the Flint Hills, but also in the Smoky Hills and the Gypsum Hills. In fact Little Bluestem can be found from the Little Balkans in southeast Kansas to the Cimarron National Grassland in the southwest, from the Arikaree Breaks in the northwest to the glaciated hills of northeast Kansas. In every county in the state Little Bluestem helps to put pounds on the beef that makes Kansas famous throughout the country and the world.

As a native Kansan and a lifelong resident of the Flint Hills, the world's premier tallgrass prairie, I urge the Kansas Legislature to name Little Bluestem as the state grass, thus joining it with those other proud symbols of our prairie heritage: the Sunflower, the Cottonwood Tree, the Bison, the Western Meadowlark, and **Home on the Range.** It was, after all, the sea of Little Bluestem outside his cabin door that inspired Brewster Higley to write his beautiful anthem to the prairie.

House Fed & State Affairs

Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 16

JOHN K. STRICKLER

**1523 University Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502-3447
Phone: 785/565-9731
Fax: 785/532-3305
jstrickl@ksu.edu**

February 24, 2010

TO: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Representative Melvin Neufeld, Chair

SUBJECT: Support of House Bill No. 2649

I am writing in support of HB 2649 which would designate Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) as the Kansas State Grass.

I have worked in the area of natural resources management for nearly 50 years in Kansas and currently serve on the Board of Trustees of the Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. I also served as Vice Chair of the Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance created by the 2002 Kansas Legislature "to create a vision for the using the state's natural resources." In its final report to the Governor and Legislature in December of 2003, the Alliance stated that "If there was one consistent theme throughout the public comment period and the expert testimony received the regular meetings of the Alliance, it has been the broad support for education about natural resources and environmental issues."

While being a forester by profession, I have developed a deep appreciation for the native grasslands of Kansas and the need for proper management and protection of these prairies. I strongly support the need for education about our state's prairies as well as its other natural resources.

I believe passage of HB 2649 would provide opportunities to educate and increase awareness and appreciation for our unique Kansas prairie resources. I respectfully urge your support of HB 2649.

House Fed & State Affairs

Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 17

Little Bluestem Testimony
From Judy Stanton
February 23, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I have been a Johnson County Master Gardener since 2004. After a year of classes and training at the Kansas State Extension in Olathe, all members are required to do at least 60 hours of volunteer participation (the average is well over 100 hours). One choice I made was to be a part of a Junior Master Gardener Program – first at Prairie Elementary in Prairie Village and then at Corinth Elementary in Leawood. The Corinth program was started in the Fall of 2007 where our group is limited to 25 students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. (We actually have 29 enrolled.) We meet once a month after school for 1 ½ hours. There are 6 Master Gardeners assisting. A main resource that we use for the classes is an extensive Junior Master Gardener Guide put out by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service from Texas A&M University. In the summer our committee outlines the programs for the year – this year, one being on the subject of native plants in Kansas.

After reading Nancy Goulden's article in the April 2009 edition of the Kansas City Gardener Magazine, I became really interested in following up on the process for determining a state icon since in the past it had to be nominated by school children of the state. With the JMGs we studied all the icons and where they were found in Kansas and why it seemed logical to have a state grass since Kansas is a Prairie State. Other states around us also have a state grass.

I followed up with Nancy's article and accessed the website and found that Jan Alderson's 9th graders at SM South had studied this and had determined that a good candidate for a state grass would be Little Bluestem – mainly because it is native to every county in Kansas. Other grasses are more spectacular, but Little Bluestem has its own beauty in all seasons – especially in Fall and Winter when there is little else to enjoy. The JMGs thought it was cool that they could play a significant part in suggesting a state icon. We planted Little Bluestem in the garden at Corinth. We made 5 models of Little Bluestem using the actual stems and then cut sisal cord into 5 to 8 foot lengths to get a real feel for the importance of roots that could reach between rocks and obtain water at great depths during drought conditions. We took samples of Little Bluestem home to show others and get their support. Our Representative, Kay Wolf came and spoke and answered questions on how a bill is passed. We obtained 291 student signatures in a period of two, 20 minute time slots before and after school on two days and wrote letters to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee Members.

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Attachment 18

I found a copy of the previous House Bill that evidently never got out of committee and called my State Rep., Kay Wolf who was key in finding out what had occurred previously and offered to propose the bill again. Valerie Wright from K-State has been especially important to this effort and making sure that we include constituents from the entire state of Kansas, and was part of previous attempts to present a state grass.

My own interest is personal as I have been enamored by the Flint Hills for the past 10 years and go there at least 4 times a year – sometimes spending a couple of days – traveling all the back roads and hiking and photographing in the Konza Prairie and at the National Prairie Preserve. When I read Nancy Goulden's article I was really hooked and passionate about a state grass – Little Bluestem.

CORINTH GRADE SCHOOL
SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEAWOOD, KANSAS

February 18, 2010

Mrs. Kay Wolf
8339 Roe Avenue
Prairie Village, Kansas 66207

Re: HB 2649

Dear Representative Wolf,

The Junior Master Gardeners and other students at Corinth Elementary School located in Leawood, Kansas have been learning about the symbols of our state. We noticed that we have a state flower, bird, tree, animal, amphibian, insect, reptile, soil and fish. Since Kansas is a grassland state, we have been talking about why we should have a state grass.

We think Kansas should have a state grass because it is a prairie state dominated by grass and is the home of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve which is a unit of the National Park System.

We would like to nominate Little Bluestem as our state grass because it is a native perennial found in every county and in all three prairie types (tallgrass, mixed grass and shortgrass). It was once the most abundant grass in the Great Plains. Little Bluestem has very deep roots and doesn't need a lot of water. It grows in all types of soils – deep, shallow or rocky, and is drought resistant. It is a good match for our climate. Cattle and bison like eating it. It is especially nutritious after a spring burn. Little Bluestem grows in clumps and is not invasive. It is also very beautiful especially in the fall and winter with reddish stems and white seed heads. Little Bluestem also provides food and habitat for other wildlife – insects, birds, mammals.

Please vote for Little Bluestem as the State Grass of Kansas. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Corinth Grade School Students

House Fed & State Affairs

Date: 2-24-2010

Attachment 19



STATE REP. Kay Wolf recently visited with the Corinth Elementary School Junior Master Gardener 'Snapdragons' to discuss the process and her involvement in getting little blue stem designated as the official grass of Kansas. Front row from left are, Caitlyn Costner, Claire Griffith, Alley Griffith, Katie Garvick, Campbell Butner, McKenna Shelton, Ben Colvin, Izzy Smith, Pete Stanton and Henry Stanton; second row, Allison Stockwell, Jana Banerjea, Madeline Derusseau, Alex Como, State Rep. Kay Wolf, Gaby Troup, Grayson Rapp and Lillian Selby.

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Michael Perry

Mackenzie Krumm

Emily Jarverick

Ellie Boston

Anna Dierks

Madeline Gray

Skylar Barratt

Brandon Schubb

Ben Colvin

Grant Colvin

Hope Hess

Ryan Hess

Hannah Eldred

Aby Johnson

Ryan Hess

William

Angelo Vasquez

Mina

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Jonathan Perry

David Goldstein

Katie Garverick

Scout Barratt

Ashley Garverick Zach

Jilli Foley

Mary Boston

Bridget McGuire

Andrew Schmidt

Colin Whalen

Joseph Steinbacher

Tristan Burnum

Isabelle Cunningham

Emily Coston

Brooke Dickson

Jasna Ummer

HENRY Ahn

Charlie Kizer

Pierce Giffin

Salvador Bui z

Claire Fritz

Jack Muller

Ⓞ Sarah Wilcox

Chloe Krause

Allison Wilcox

Kay Kay Winn

Trenton Winn

Callie McPhail

Mikaila Hirsch

Katie Kissick

Audrey Dickens

Julie Swift

Kathryn Jones

Maura Kate Mitchelson

Jen Black

Erin Jeffers

Eva Roberts

Daphin Li

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Brian Foley

Camille Moore

Cosmina Backs

Dexter Aschowitz

Kennedy Krumm Kennedy Krumm

Dylan Green

Erant Burnam

Taylor Vincent

Harper Mundy

Madison Smiley

Max Smiley

Julia Haeger

Grace McElroy

Austin Frey

Cameron Fritz

Madison

Mattie Gaughan

Zoe Browné

John Bibki

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Lily Mendoza

Kaitlin Dervin

Libby O'Connor 4-B

Nadia Pusateri

Olivia Seabaugh

George Fischer

Anna Mitchell

Olivia

Madeline Stinson

Braden Johnston

Top Krausz

~~Jack~~ Jordan Patton

Dylan Bobbitt

Gibson Hoefgen

Sophia Durone

Lindsey Staehr

Gracie Kost

Austin

Venus Gutierrez

Parker Bunnis

SIGNATURES

Hayden Talge

Emmanuel Gallag

Alex Schwedler (is cool)

Maya Styrkowitz

Henry Sullivan

Charlie Jensen

Kenna Shelton 3-C

Gretchen Ternus

Joey Albano

Maggie Brophy

Tom Salinas

Diego Oliva

Annie Bogart

Beverly Webster-cook

Ellie Tagtalianidis

Jack Lischer

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Lisa Hamrick Carolyn Simpson Stuti Dalal
Chloe Wright Lizzy Rapp Rebecca Oeffner
Jack Edwards (~~alex washburn~~
Cameron Paddock Blaine Murphy
Anna K Hernandez / alex washburn Maddy Pitt
Madison Coynon Arianna Oeffner
Nacolle Zurke Noah Brehle
Elizabeth Tillhof Mikyle Wikus
Melissa M O'Hara matt SIMPSON Jenny R Anderson
~~Paddock~~ Sean Paddock
Pete Stanton
Claire Tieggen

mg to

19-9

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Molly O'Keefe

Cade Eldred

Charles

KO + P.

FRANK Schudy

Andy Allen

MIKEY MCFARLIN

Ethan Anderson

Ella Higgins

Henry Stanton

Allyx Tiegen

Fleana Arruda

Justin Polofsky

Will Brooker

Blake H.

Ethan Rosenthal

Sam Thomas

Mitchell Stry

Sam McFarlin

Davis Vaughn

Lydia Davis

Kate Higgins

19-10

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Isabel Miller 4-L

Madeline DeBussseau

Campbell ~~Boetner~~ 4-B

Marcialey Dreyfus

Cole Conderman

Elie Wilson 5-S

Erin Staehr

Cruz = Mendoza

Chindog

Lenny Lancer Bob

Person

John Jensen

Lucy Crum

Lillie Johnston

Jack Kost

Chloe Kowalski

Cole Chye

~~Scott Muel~~

Annie Renner

Ellen Swanson

Daniel Goldstein

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Sarena Hirsch

Ava DeChaine

Matthew Erdner

Alex Como

Mabeline

Kalan vanorden

~~ate~~ Ashley Costner

Caitlyn Costner

Melissa Costner

Ben Costner

Wyatt Brandon

Janie Mahaffy

Hannah Biggerstaff Kim

Will Kost

Lauren Dierks

Griffin

Cade Eldred

19-12

Will Burrus

Antoine Hottel

Lillian Selby

~~John Snyder~~

Emerson

Ana Barjea

Allisses Stockwell

Emma Cannova

Ellie Mitchell

Susan Haenisch

Merritt Vaughn ♥

Ragan Rapp

Callie Eldred

Jammy Japp

~~Sarah B. Burt~~

~~John Burt~~

Grant Hanaway

Ben Knutson

Jack Felton

Bonnie Langan

Ryan Freeman

Claire Whittaker

ZACHARY BEIL

Arjun Banerjee

Bennett Lawrence

Aidan B

Nicholas Stuart

Madeline Stuart

Susan Stuart

Chad Stuart

Lisa Tulp

ABBY JOHNSON 4-B

Harold Hot dog -?

Chimy Chon

Augustine le forte

bryce van orden

Lucas vanorden

STUDENT SIGNATURES

Lincoln Wham 4 Leaders

Brianna Currie 4 Norem

Venus Gutierrez 4-Norem
~~Venus Gutierrez~~

~~Bum~~

~~Isaac~~ 5-Wendt schmitt

Patrick 4 Norem

Allie Exmer

Beck Bennett

Jack Phillips, Chloe Stinson

Ryan Staehr

Kade Liddell

Maggie Schutt

William Pusa Teri

Gabby Buck

Katherine Odell

Vivien Viveros

Jack Reeves

Addison Crawford

Allison Benson

STUDENT SIGNATURES

~~Jessy~~ Smith

Lucy Smith

Lucy Hoffman

Kathleen Stanley

Michael ~~to~~

Gaby Troup

Kenzie Mullane

Sophie Newmyer

Cate Newmyer

Emily Copper

Quinn Copper

Kyrrah Underwood

Enrique Castillo

Tommy Tietjen

Casey Vincent

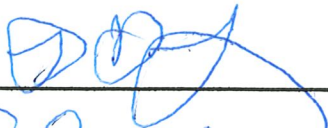
Calvin Ball

Jake Stone

Brett Freeman

Kallie Klebe

SIGNATURES


Ben Bogert

Sam Huntley

Grace Cross

Catherine Erickson

Ava Stechschulte

Hannah Stern

Nicholas Stuart

Henry Mahobly

William Schmidt

Kim

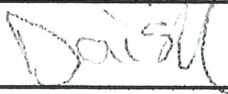
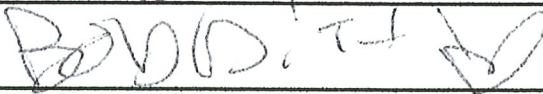
Bryn

Sadie Rosenthal

Claire Kovzan

Max Dalton

Elise Baker

Daisy  David 

Charlie

Davio DiPogno