

STATE OF KANSAS

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 2238

February 10, 2015

Chairman Heubert and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and provide testimony in **support of HB 2238**.

HB 2238 is a simple, straight-forward bill that would designate Cowley County as the "Stone Bridge Capitol of Kansas."

Just in case you're unaware of Cowley County's location, it is straight south of Wichita on the Oklahoma border; the two major towns are Winfield and Arkansas City.

I won't talk much about the history of the stone bridges (I'll let others do that), but with 18 stone bridges, we have more than double any other Kansas county.

I see having this official designation as providing at least two benefits. It will increase the tourism possibilities to Cowley County and help preserve the current structures. In my home county (Montgomery) at least one old yet, still very usable, arch bridge was destroyed to widening a highway. That piece of history is gone forever.

The designation of Stone Bridge Capitol of Kansas will provide Cowley County with an additional tourism draw; which increases the economic activity in the area.

I'll be happy to stand for questions at the proper time.