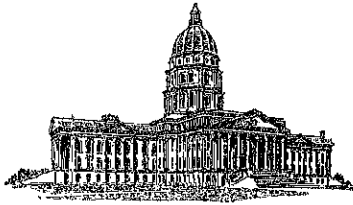


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Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Senator, 29th District

January 24, 2018
Testimony in Support of SB273

Senate Transportation Committee

Honorable Chair – Mike Petersen
Vice Chair – John Doll
Ranking Minority – Pat Pettey
Honorable Committee Members

Good morning Mr. Chairman and other esteemed members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill number 273.

I would like to start by acknowledging the concerns of some citizens who believe the appearance of Wichita's flag somewhat mirrors the old Confederate flag. Our nation's flag dawns the red, white, and blue. In 1861, the confederates took those colors and defiled what we as nation stood for. But this was not the case with the Wichita flag. Our flag was designed by local artist Cecil McAlister in a 1937 during a city flag contest. Red and white rays symbolize the path of freedom to come and go as one pleases. The blue disc represents happiness and contentment. The Native American Hogan symbol signifies 'permanent home'. It is an accumulation of Wichita's history and culture that symbolizes prosperity and reconciliation, and has no relationship with the diluted confederacy. Let's show the state and the country that we won't be weighed down by the fear of the old. Let's unite to show our tolerance and recognize Wichita's flag for what it truly is.

The passage of this bill will benefit the Pawnee Prairie Park of Wichita, where we will add a bike trail to the 400 acres of nature conservation and horse trails. This park has been accessible to tens of thousands of Kansans and this number will grow. This comes at no extra cost to the taxpayers. Furthermore, the refurbishing of the park will attract more tourists to Wichita, which has the potential to bring in more revenue and positively reinforce Wichita's image and popularity.

I would like to thank Rebecca Fields, Laura Rainwater, and Councilman Bryan Frye for help on the concept of this bill. Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau