

**Testimony on SB 53 relating to State Symbols
To
The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**By Christopher Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

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SB 53 seeks to name certain state symbols. The Department is a proponent of the bill. The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

The bill proposes designating the chambourcin as the state red wine grape and the vigneoles as the state white wine grape. The Department supports the concept of having state symbols that it can use to promote the state and localities within the state where these state symbols reside. Some of our current state symbols include the amphibian: barred tiger salamander; bird: western meadowlark; flower: wild sunflower; insect: western honey bee; mammal: american bison; reptile: ornate box turtle; grass: little bluestem; tree: plains cottonwood; state mineral: galena, state rock: greenhorn limestone; state gemstone: jelinite amber; and the state fish: channel catfish.

State symbols represent the magnificence of the great state in which we live and show others what we have to offer. It is unlikely that many residing outside of Kansas know the rich history of the symbols of our state and this bill is a step to increasing visitation and awareness of Kansas.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee on the bill and the support of the committee in recommending the bill favorably for passage.