

Bill Number: HB2644
Support: Yes
Testimony: In person, oral
For meeting on: March 29, 2022
Testimony by: Evva Deters
On Behalf of: Sabetha Elementary School, 5th grade
Email address: wertenbjo@usd113.org
Telephone: 785-285-8561

Chairman Olson, thank you for letting me speak here today. Also thank you Vice Chairman Hilderbrand. My name is Evva Deters. I'm a fourth-grade student at Sabetha Elementary School, and I'm a proponent of HB2644.

If you are wondering how we got here, last year's fourth grade at Sabetha Elementary School thought Kansas needed a state fruit, so they started working on creating a bill and narrowing the fruit options down to four. This year, we have continued the work-learning more about the four fruits - American Persimmon, Mulberry, Sandhill Plum and Gooseberry - to help us decide which we liked best. We then wrote a persuasive essay on which fruit we preferred.

Finally, students from 24 schools voted on which of the four fruit choices we wanted to be the Kansas State Fruit. The winner was the Sandhill Plum, a wild plum native to much of Kansas that is found naturally on sandy prairies where it helps to stop blowing sand.

I believe that you should approve HB2644, because Kansas should have a State Fruit. Many other states have one, and it is important to recognize the things that set Kansas apart
-such as a native fruit.

This project has taken us more than a year, but it was worth the time - and here's why. It's more fun to create a bill than it is to read about one. It is also more fun to actively participate in the process to see how it works. My classmates and I have enjoyed learning about creating bills, as well as fruits native to Kansas.