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Good morning and thank you Chairman Olson and committee for allowing me to speak to you today. My name is Teghan O'Rourke and I am representing Healy Elementary School in Western Kansas. I am a proponent for making the Sandhill plum our state fruit. There are a variety of reasons why the sandhill plum should be chosen to be the Kansas state fruit.

The Sandhill plum is a native species that has been grown and eaten not only by our ancestors but native Americans for centuries here in Kansas. It grows wild or can be planted all over our state and in many types of soil like sand, dirt or even heavy clay. They also make great additions to windbreaks and protection for wildlife. The shrub can live to be 15 to 25 years old.

The sandhill plum is a very delicious fruit and you can make many things with it like jelly and pie. Since Kansas is known as the breadbasket of the world there is nothing better on homemade bread than Sandhill plum jelly.

For these reasons I think our newest state symbol should be the Sandhill plum. It is a good choice for our state fruit.

Please help us get bill HB 2644 passed by speaking with other Senators.

Thank you for letting me speak today.