

Testimony of Casey Friend

Proponent House Bill No. 2650

Hello my name is Casey Friend. I am a 4th grader at Trailwood Elementary School in Overland Park Kansas. Thank you for taking the time today to listen to me.

I have been interested in geology since first grade. While researching I discovered that the State of Kansas did not have an officially designated state rock, mineral and gemstone.

Today I'd like to propose limestone as the official rock, galena as the official mineral, and jelinite as the official gemstone of the State of Kansas.

I am proposing Limestone as the state rock because it is very common in the state of Kansas. It is often used in construction of buildings, including our state capital. Another unique quality of limestone is that it has calcite and marine organisms, even though Kansas as we know it today is far from the ocean.

For state mineral I am proposing Galena. Galena is a type of lead ore that was discovered in Kansas in the 1800s. The discovery brought many people and more railroads to support the mining industry.

I think jelinite should be selected as the state gemstone. Jelinite originated in the State of Kansas. It was discovered in bedrock near the Smoky Hill River in Kansas. It is a type of amber that was originally named kansasite, but was later renamed jelinite after, George Jelinek the man who discovered it. Jelinite is no longer accessible because it is under the Kannapolis Reservoir, which makes Jelinite very rare.

Again I appreciate you for taking the time to listen to my bill and hope that you will consider limestone, galena, and jelinite amber to represent the state of Kansas.