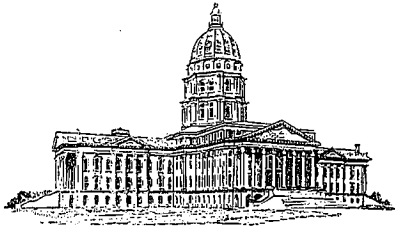


STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BRIAN A. WEBER
119TH DISTRICT

Madam Chair and committee members,

I am pleased to stand before you in support of HB2402.

There are efforts to have National Day of the Cowboy recognized across the nation, and already other states have taken this step to have it celebrated in their respective states. Passage of HB2402 will add Kansas to that growing list.

I would like to share why I am personally asking you to follow-up this hearing with a vote at some point, and I ask for your support.

While earning my masters degree in History, I decided to write my thesis on Dodge City and the transition that took place from the 1880s to the 1910s. I focused on the 30 year period in which Dodge City went from Wyatt Earp walking the dirt streets of a wild cow-town, and cowboys running Texas Longhorns; to figuratively "overnight" becoming a modern city with a sewer system, a waterworks, paved streets, automobiles, a small college, and a competitive local political climate.

I share this because as Dodge City went through this fundamental shift of modernization and town building in the Progressive Era, it retained its connection to the cowboy and western heritage. This is a connection we retain even today. And just as we promote our Boot Hill Museum, Trail of Fame, and other western aspects and attractions in our community, there are numerous other communities across the state that also retain their connection to their western heritage.

We ought to support this bill to assist in ensuring that we as a state preserve this historical connection for the state of Kansas and our communities, and that we continue to retain it for future generations. This bill provides a method for a great reminder every summer, one that will hopefully be celebrated statewide and nationwide.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony,

Rep. Brian Weber – 119th District
Dodge City, KS
Kansas House of Representatives

House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee

Date 3-20-2013

Attachment # 4