

Bill Number: HB2644  
Support: Yes  
Testimony: In person, oral  
For meeting on: March 29, 2022  
Testimony by: Grant Stapleton  
On Behalf of: Sabetha Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Email address: [wertenbjo@usd113.org](mailto:wertenbjo@usd113.org)  
Telephone: 785-285-8561

Thank you Chairman Olson for letting us be here.

My name is Grant Stapleton. I am 11 years old. I'm in 5th grade and attend Sabetha Elementary school. I am a proponent of H B 2644.

The reason why we want the Sandhill Plum as our state fruit is because it can house animals and aid protection with its thorny body. Also, they are amazing when ripe and are very sweet. They are also used in jellies and jams. Not only that, for the older folks they are also used in wine.

The Sandhill Plum grows to 3-4 feet tall and 4-6 feet wide. So say you have a part of land that you want to cover up, plant a Sandhill plum or two. I mean why not? Fruit and a nice bush all in one.

The plums grow fruit every year. That's right every year! And they grow great and just about everywhere in Kansas. The fruit grows in ditches and about everywhere.

Representative Randy Garber came and told us how to make a bill and the process one must go through to get a law passed. Not only that Mr. Grimm from Grimm's Gardens talked to us about native fruits. So I guess you could say we are kind of experts.

Then 24 other schools helped us decide our state fruit by voting. That's a lot of other kids besides our school. We also did a lot of research so that our speeches are full of facts about the Sandhill plum.

More good news is that the plum houses and feeds normal birds which is great for hunters and bird watchers. So why not choose it? The plums are affordable and cost around 5 bucks a pound. You could also plant one, so you can get plums for free.

So they're amazing! Right? Well ya they're amazing! The Sandhill plum is able to grow everywhere in Kansas. It would also probably make a nice wind break.

We want to follow the other states and get a state fruit. Don't we? I mean I don't want to be left out. My hope is that you help us pass this bill. Those are my reasons why we want the Sandhill Plum as our state fruit.

Thank you for your time.