

Approved: 3-30-94
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Sallee at 8:00 a.m. on March 21, 1994 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present or excused:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Richard Alldritt, District 105, Harper, KS
Tom Kirker, Department of Wildlife and Parks
Art Brown, Mid-America Lumbermens Association
James J. Nighswonger, Urban and Community Forestry, Kansas State University
Terry L. Bertels, City Forester, Topeka, KS
Edward Geeding, Urban Forest Consultant
Larry Bitts, West Main Landscaping, Chanute, KS
Patti Armstrong, Vice Chairman, Kansas Urban Forestry Councils
Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities

Others attending: See attached list

Representative Richard Alldritt appeared before the committee and presented testimony on HB-2732. Representative Alldritt stated the bill creates an Urban Forestry Program administered by State and Extension Forestry at Kansas State to make grants of up to \$5,000 per year to each qualified Tree City, USA. To qualify as a Tree City USA a city must have 1) an official tree board; 2) a tree ordinance providing for the planting and care of the public tree resource; 3) an urban forestry program with an annual expenditure of at least \$2.00 per capita; 4) an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Attachment 1 The Representative called attention to a draft for an amendment, technical in nature, which would define more accurately the requirements for a Tree City.

A member asked Representative Alldritt how he proposed to fund this bill. The Representative stated his original intent had been to use EDIF funds, that this would be a way of returning some of the money to the communities. However, this was deleted from the bill before it left the House. The amount of the fiscal note for HB-2732 was \$437,500.

Tom Kirker, Department of Wildlife and Parks, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating such a program would improve urban wildlife habitat and provide benefits to both urban wildlife and the people who enjoy that resource. Attachment 2

Art Brown, Mid-America Lumbermens Association, Kansas City, Missouri, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating the planning, planting and maintenance and upkeep of this natural resource builds pride in the community, and provides a true aesthetic plus to communities who get involved in this process. Attachment 3 Mr. Brown told members that trees are a large and strong economic development for Kansas. Mr. Brown also expressed the opinion that appropriating money for this activity would show some leadership to local units.

James J. Nighswonger, Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader, Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas appeared to give testimony on HB-2732. Mr. Nighswonger told members he wished to provide information as to how the bill would impact the agency and the tree resource in Kansas communities. Mr. Nighswonger told the committee the administration of this bill would require their

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m. on March 21, 1994.

office to provide a number of services to the state. Due to increasing demands on their staff to conduct mandated programs by both the state and federal government he stated his department was asking for 13% of any appropriation to fund HB-2732 (up to a maximum of \$45,000) for administration of the tree planting grant programs. Attachment 4

A member questioned the set aside of 13% for administration since there was no guarantee the Legislature was going to fund the grants. The member acknowledged that the Extension Service was working on a very tight budget. The member further questioned how distribution would take place if the grant program was not fully funded. Mr. Nighswonger stated it would be shared with the qualified communities equally regardless of the size of the city.

A member expressed concern that there were no rules or regulations to deal with the administration of the fund. Mr. Nighswonger told the committee his department attempted to keep paperwork to the minimum and felt they were operating very efficiently.

A member questioned what programs were available at Kansas State University to provide trees to people with Mr. Nighswonger stating the only one was the "seedling distribution program" with the State and Extension Forestry that is limited to conservation trees which must be used by law for windbreaks, shelter belts and wildlife habitat. They are provided at a cost from \$.30 to just over \$1.00. The program is funded primarily through federal funds. The trees for HB-2732 would be purchased commercially in Kansas.

Terry L. Bertels, City Forester, City of Topeka, Kansas, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating the purchase and planting of trees has always demonstrated an investment in, and a commitment to, the future of a home site, business, city or state. Attachment 5 Mr. Bertels told the committee that Topeka had lost numerous trees due to Dutch Elm Disease and relatively few trees are being planted to fill the void created when large trees must be removed. Mr. Bertels stated that Topeka would be happy to receive whatever funds might be available.

Edward Geeding, Urban Forest Consultant, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating an urban forest is an integral part of any community, regardless of its size. In his testimony Mr. Geeding listed numerous benefits communities would receive from this program, among them energy conservation, economic vitality, air quality and stormwater control. Attachment 6

Larry Bitts, West Main Landscaping, Chanute, Kansas, appeared and presented testimony in support of HB-2732 stating trees are one of the most important natural resources we have. He said that in his business the money from a tree planting project was spent in the community for gasoline, insurance, supplies, and household living expenses, each dollar spent with a local business is used seven more times, helping keep a strong economy. Attachment 7 Mr. Bitts further stated that many of the trees used in tree planting projects are grown in Kansas providing a further boost to the state's economy.

Carl Smith, member of the Northeast Forestry Council appeared before the committee in support of HB-2732. Mr. Smith told the committee this was legislation they could be proud of in future years, that it was a proven fact it would work.

Patti Armstrong, Vice Chairman, Kansas Urban Forestry Councils, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating trees fall into the category of Motherhood and Apple Pie. Attachment 8 Communities have the volunteer labor but need the funds to purchase the trees. Ms. Armstrong urged the committee to restore the funding for the bill which was deleted on the floor of the House of Representatives. Ms. Armstrong also urged the committee to amend the bill so that the requirements were identical to those of the Tree City Program since there must be a commitment not only for planting trees but for maintenance and appreciation of trees.

Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities, appeared in support of HB-2732 stating the quality of the urban environment, in large and small cities alike, is one of the most important factors in a city's economic and social health. Attachment 9

Written testimony only was presented by Clarence Brown, Southeast Urban Forestry District, stating that passage of HB-2732 was of utmost importance to the residents of the state of Kansas. This bill would provide for technical assistance which otherwise might not be available. Attachment 10

Attention of the committee was called to the draft of a letter to be sent to Dr. Harder concerning the issue of waste tires.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 1994.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE March 21, 1994

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Chris McKenzie
 Larry B. TTS
 Carl Smith
 Terry L. Bertels
 Pat Armstrong
 Art Brown
 Ed Geeding
 Jim Nibbs
 Richard Alldritt
 Tricia R. Leos

League of Ks. Municipalities -
 West Main Landscaping
 - Mr. Under Mounts Council
 CITY OF TOPEKA DIV. OF FORESTRY
 KANSAS URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
 KS. LBR Dealers
 Kansas Urban Forestry Council
 KSU EXTENSION FORESTRY
 Legislature - 105TH
 KS. Audubon Council

RICHARD ALLDRITT
REPRESENTATIVE, 105TH DISTRICT
Home Address: 613 W. 15TH
HARPER, KANSAS 67058
(316) 896-7527
Office: STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
296-7667
1-800-432-3924



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TO: SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ALLDRITT
RE: HB 2732 URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I want to THANK YOU for hearing this bill and for allowing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 2732.

You have my testimony as well as a list of the 75 Tree Cities USA across the state that would benefit directly from the passage of this bill. You also have a list locating those cities in Senate Districts, and a list of some one hundred Kansas program towns...

HB 2732 simply creates an Urban Forestry Program administered by State and Extension Forestry at Kansas State to make grants of up to \$5,000. per year to each qualified Tree City USA.

To qualify as a Tree City USA, as designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Kansas State Forester, a city must have: 1. An official tree board; 2. A tree ordinance providing for the planting and care of the public tree resource; 3. An urban forestry program with an annual expenditure of at least \$2.00 per capita; 4. An Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The State Forester would award annual grants of up to \$5,000 to each Tree City USA. Those Tree Cities receiving grants must file a report annually as required by State and Extension Forestry who in turn shall file an annual report of progress with the Kansas Legislature.

On the chart that reports state funding for state forestry programs you will discover that Kansas ranks 50 out of the 50 states and this bill, if fully funded at the \$5,000 per city level, makes us 47th...

We consider many bills in the legislature each year and spend lots of money for lots of programs. You know exactly what this bill will do and you know exactly what this program will cost and each year you'll have a complete accounting of just exactly what the benefits are from HB 2732.

HB 2732 will plant approximately 10,000 trees each year all across Kansas, investing in local communities that are helping themselves,

Senate Energy & Natural Resources
March 21, 1994
Attachment 1

RICHARD ALLDRITT
REPRESENTATIVE, 105TH DISTRICT
Home Address: 613 W. 15TH
HARPER, KANSAS 67058
(316) 896-7527
Office: STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
296-7667
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

will provide summer jobs for high school and college students, this is a program that will only INCREASE in value beyond our lifetimes.

How often do you consider a bill that is so clear in it's purpose, in it's cost, and in it's benefit to the state?

How often do you consider a bill that requires a financial investment that will only increase in value with each passing generation?

How often do you consider a bill that can only benefit all Kansans?

I would ask for your favorable consideration and passage of HB 2732.

THANK YOU!

(p) establish an urban forestry program to administer grants to Tree City USA's for the purchase of trees from Kansas nurseries to be planted on public property. To qualify as a Tree City USA, as designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the State Forester, a city must have: (1) An official tree board or department; (2) A tree ordinance providing for the planting and care of the public tree resource; (3) An Urban or Community Forestry Program with an annual expenditure of at least \$2 per capita, and; (4) An Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The qualifying city shall apply annually for a grant from the office of State and Extension Forestry. The State Forester shall award annually grants of up to \$5,000 to each qualified Tree City USA. Those Tree City USA's that receive grants must file an annual report as required by State and Extension Forestry. State and Extension Forestry shall file an annual report of accomplishments to the legislature.

PROGRAM TOWNS

Cawker City	Alden	Tribune
Andover	DeSoto	Arkansas City
Argonia	Edwardsville	Esbon
Effingham	Arlington	Augusta
Attica	Glasco	Highland
Grandview Plaza	Belle Plaine	Chapman
Bentley	Holton	Jamestown
Horton	Cheney	Delphos
Leavenworth	Kansas City	Linn
Odgen	Mission	Goddard
Hutchinson	Hillsboro	Ozawkie
Sabetha	Prairie Village	Kingman
Mount Hope	Shawnee	Seneca
St. Marys	Pretty Prairie	Park City
Stafford	Washington	Troy
Westmoreland	Syracuse	Willowbrook
Altamont	Atwood	Wetmore
Baxter Springs	Caney	Sublette
Bird City	Bogue	Bison
Cherryvale	Columbus	Chetopa
Ellis	Grinnell	Gaylord
Cottonwood Falls	Erie	Council Grove
Herndon	Kanorado	Hill City
Fall River	Frontenac	Fredonia
LaCrosse	Norcatour	Marland
Galena	Independence	Girard
Norton	Osborne	Oakley
Iola	Mound City	Longton
Sharon Springs	St. Francis	Smith Center
Neodesha	Ottawa	Osawatomie
Stockton	Cimarron	Victoria
Paola	Strong City	Pittsburg
Greensburg	Johnson City	Hugoton
Walnut	Scott City	Yates Center
Larned	Clyde	Meade

STATE FUNDING FOR STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS
Fiscal Year 1992

~~SECRET~~ (A)

<u>STATE</u>	<u>STATE FUNDING</u>	<u>NON-INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FORESTLAND (MILLION ACRES)</u>	<u>LAND AREA UNDER FIRE PROTECTION (MILLION ACRES)</u>
California	\$264,680,000	12.00	31.70
Florida	33,025,000	7.10	27.10
Georgia	31,750,000	16.10	27.50
North Carolina	27,285,800	14.29	19.28
Pennsylvania	27,053,000	11.50	19.50
Minnesota	25,270,300	5.90	45.00
Wisconsin	21,355,000	8.73	18.90
Alaska	18,090,700	0.40	268.00
South Carolina	16,778,000	8.30	12.56
Washington	14,934,000	3.22	12.50
Mississippi	14,364,400	11.87	-
Alabama	13,497,000	15.30	25.73
Tennessee	12,750,000	12.12	25.51
New York	12,143,000	12.30	18.10
Virginia	11,719,000	11.60	13.69
Texas	10,456,000	6.98	22.12
Oregon	9,981,000	4.54	54.36
Missouri	9,573,000	11.33	16.50
Michigan	8,658,800	9.70	20.60
Maine	8,518,000	8.60	17.60
Louisiana	8,284,814	8.10	13.30
Montana	7,606,000	3.80	50.00
Ohio	7,219,000	5.55	5.80
Kentucky	6,898,000	10.89	11.60
Arkansas	6,397,000	9.80	19.73
Maryland	5,635,269	2.30	3.00
Oklahoma	4,901,000	5.36	5.95
Idaho	4,779,000	2.29	6.00
New Jersey	4,718,000	1.86	2.90
Nevada	4,669,000	0.07	9.80
Hawaii	4,210,000	0.42	3.31
Illinois	3,954,000	3.63	8.50
Colorado	3,085,000	5.99	25.96
West Virginia	2,999,000	10.00	12.80
Massachusetts	2,861,500	2.67	3.23
Vermont	2,745,000	4.10	5.90
New Mexico	2,367,000	8.12	42.50
Indiana	1,800,662	3.34	7.30
Connecticut	1,736,560	1.56	1.83
New Hampshire	1,622,000	3.59	4.66
Wyoming	1,544,000	1.12	29.00
Iowa	1,538,800	1.80	2.10
Rhode Island	1,200,000	0.31	0.50
Utah	1,120,900	2.70	15.00
<u>South Dakota</u>	<u>993,000</u>	0.50	43.56
<u>Nebraska</u>	<u>895,600</u>	0.70	46.00
North Dakota	699,000	0.41	31.87
Arizona	595,000	8.00	22.40
Delaware	500,000	0.36	0.56
Kansas	314,100	1.33	49.40

KANSAS TREE CITY USA TOWNS - 1993

SENATE DISTRICT	CITY
#1	Atchison Hiawatha Wamego
#2	Lawrence
#3	Fort Leavenworth Lansing Oskaloosa Valley Falls
#4	
#5	Bonner Springs Lansing
#6	
#7	Fairway Mission Hills Overland Park Roeland Park Westwood
#8	Lenexa Overland Park
#9	Lenexa Olathe
#10	Merriam Overland Park
#11	Overland Park
#12	Garnett
#13	Fort Scott
#14	Chanute Coffeyville Oswego Parsons
#15	Burlington
#16	El Dorado
#17	Emporia Herington Junction City
#18	Topeka
#19	Osage City Topeka
#20	Topeka
#21	Blue Rapids Clay Center Concordia Greenleaf Manhattan Marysville Wakefield

SENATE DISTRICT	CITY
#22	Fort Riley Junction City Manhattan
#23	Olathe Overland Park
#24	Salina
#25	Wichita
#26	Derby Wichita
#27	Wichita
#28	Wichita
#29	Wichita
#30	Eastborough Wichita
#31	Halstead Hesston Newton Valley Center Wichita
#32	Mulvane Oxford Winfield
#33	Anthony Cunningham Great Bend Harper
#34	Haven
#35	Abilene Herington Lindsborg Marquette McPherson Sterling Windom
#36	Belleville Beloit Formosa Hoisington Mankato Phillipsburg Russell
#37	Hays, Mullinville
#38	Dodge City Liberal
#39	Garden City Ulysses
#40	Colby Goodland Oberlin WaKeeney

KANSAS TREE CITY USA TOWNS - 1993

CITY	POPULATION	CITY	POPULATION
Abilene	6,242	Lawrence	65,608
Anthony	2,516	Lenexa	34,034
Atchison	10,656	Liberal	16,573
Belleville	2,517	Lindsborg	3,077
Beloit	4,066	Manhattan	37,712
Blue Rapids	1,131	Mankato	1,037
Bonner Springs	6,413	Marquette	593
Burlington	2,735	Marysville	3,360
Chanute	9,488	McPherson	12,422
Clay Center	4,613	Merriam	11,819
Coffeyville	12,917	Mission Hills	3,446
Colby	5,510	Mullinville	289
Concordia	6,167	Mulvane	4,674
Cunningham	535	Newton	16,700
Derby	14,699	Oberlin	2,197
Dodge City	21,129	Olathe	63,352
Eastborough	896	Osage City	2,689
El Dorado	11,504	Oskaloosa	1,074
Emporia	25,512	Oswego	1,870
Fairway	4,173	Overland Park	111,790
Formoso	128	Oxford	1,143
Fort Leavenworth	38,495	Parsons	11,924
Fort Riley	804	Phillipsburg	2,828
Fort Scott	8,362	Roeland Park	7,706
Garden City	24,097	Russell	4,781
Garnett	3,210	Salina	42,299
Goodland	4,983	Sterling	2,191
Greenleaf	353	Topeka	119,883
Halstead	2,015	Ulysses	5,474
Harper	1,735	Valley Center	3,624
Haven	1,198	Valley Falls	1,253
Hays	17,807	WaKeeney	2,161
Herington	2,685	Wakefield	900
Hesston	3,012	Wamego	3,706
Hiawatha	3,603	Waterville	601
Hoisington	3,182	Westwood	1,772
Junction City	20,604	Wichita	304,011
Lansing	7,120	Windom	136
		Winfield	11,931

STATE OF KANSAS



Joan Finney
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Theodore D. Ensley
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 502 / Topeka, Kansas 66612 - 1233
(913) 296-2281 / FAX (913) 296-6953

Senator Don Sallee, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Room 128-S
Statehouse

March 21, 1994

Dear Senator Sallee:

H.B. 2732 creates an formal urban forestry program under the authority of the State Forester. Such a program would improve urban wildlife habitat and provide benefits to both urban wildlife and the people who enjoy that resource. The Department currently provides assistance to urban habitat programs and will continue to cooperate with program participants to the extent our technical services and planning assistance would be beneficial.

Sincerely,

Theodore D. Ensley
Theodore D. Ensley,
Secretary

Senate Energy & Natural Resources
March 21, 1994
Attachment 2



800 WESTPORT ROAD • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111-3196
816/931-2102 FAX 816/931-4617

MID-AMERICA LUMBERMENS ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

House Bill #2732

Rm: 423-S

March 27, 1994

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, it is my privilege to appear before you today as a proponent of House Bill #2732. My name is Art Brown, and I represent the retail lumber dealers in the state of Kansas.

Basically, the issues become: Is tree planting and maintenance good economic development for Kansas, and should the state appropriate money to local units for such activity?

To answer the first part of these issues, I would have to say, it must be. Every community in this state—rich or poor, rural or urban, big or small—share a common bond. No, not just water towers or grain elevators, but trees. The planning, planting, and maintenance and upkeep of this natural resource, builds pride in the community, and provides a true aesthetic plus to communities who get involved in this process.

Not too long ago, many trees in the western part of the state suffered some significant loss of stumpage—the industry word for standing timber—during a freak shift in temperature that froze the rising sap, and killed thousands of trees. It cannot be taken lightly the importance these communities place on having these trees replaced that were lost. Do trees add value to a community? Ask the insurance community what value they put on mature trees on private and public property. Ask anyone who has ever owned a Christmas tree farm the amount of property tax they pay on their trees to the state. Ask the many folks in southeastern Kansas who annually harvest and market pecans throughout that part of the state, along with firewood which also finds its way into Oklahoma and Missouri. As the woodworkers, cabinetmakers, furniture manufacturers, commercial and industrial businesses who utilize native walnut. John Strickler, with the School of Forestry at Kansas State University, states that Kansas is a LEADING state in the marketing of processed walnut.



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Kansas has what I call an "invisible forest." No one really perceives that there is a great deal of timber in the state, and therefore is not a good source of revenue for the state, or economic development for communities. Not true!! Trees are a large and strong economic development tool in Kansas today.

We have provided seedlings to many civic groups, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, churches and the like for planting through a marketing program we call "Lumber Grows on Trees." The overwhelming success and positive response to this program has encouraged me to be an active supporter of this bill, because people like to get involved in this type of activity for the betterment of their community. The job creation brought on by maintenance and upkeep of these planted seedlings complements the balance of the components of this bill.

As to the second issue, should the state appropriate money for this activity, we feel this would show some leadership to the local units by becoming a conduit of funding to the local units. This provides a focus and guidelines, rather than the dysfunctional activity of communities trying to go it alone with no guidelines or clear path to funding.

In closing, I wish to say that this is a very interesting bill. People who support this bill, do so very passionately, which may be a little puzzling to many of you who feel that there are bills in this committee that are higher up on the "food chain." It speaks to the fact that these people desperately need this resource in their community. When you go back home after the session ends, and you tell folks you have done this for their communities, by passing this bill, I think you will find that most, maybe not all, but most, will be glad you felt strong enough about the community to provide this most valuable and attractive asset.

We ask that this committee pass on what the House of Representatives has started, and show the leadership to the local units in this state by the passage of HB #2732 out of committee favorably. I will stand for any questions or comments you may have, and thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today.



Cooperative Extension Service

State and Extension Forestry
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2798
913-537-7050
FAX: 913-539-9584
Postage Paid

March 17, 1994

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, Senator Don Sallee, Chairperson

From: James J. Nighswonger
Urban and Community Forestry
Program Leader

Subject: HB 2732 - Relating to Tree City USA Tree
Planting Grant Program

I am Jim Nighswonger, Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader with Kansas State and Extension Forestry at Kansas State University. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on HB 2732.

I am here today on behalf of Ray Aslin, State Forester. As a representative of Kansas State University my purpose is neither to support or oppose this legislation but rather to provide information as to how this bill would impact our agency and the tree resource in Kansas communities.

Tree planting is needed in Kansas communities. Inventories of nearly 200 Kansas towns indicate that streets and parks typically contain only one-half to two-thirds the tree population for which there is space. Also, we often find that only 1 tree is planted for every 4 that are removed.

Small towns especially, have limited resources available for tree planting and yet trees are a valuable resource in terms of environmental benefits to people. In addition, they add significant monetary value to these communities. For example, some of the communities you folks represent have street tree values of: Troy--(1978) \$281,000, Hugoton--(1972) \$458,000, Leavenworth--(1979) \$11,590,000, and Osawatomie--(1974) \$623,000. Statewide the public tree resource in cities and towns represents 1.15 million acres valued at over 1 billion dollars.

Our agency has considerable experience in administering tree planting grants. During the past 4 years we have awarded over \$579,000 of Small Business Administration

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Attachment 4

grant dollars to 71 Kansas communities for tree planting. This cost-share program has leveraged \$508,000 in local money and planted thousands of trees on public property. For 3 years, State and Extension Forestry administered an America the Beautiful cost-share tree planting program that awarded over \$75,000 federal dollars to 34 communities that leveraged over \$124,000 of local support. All of this has been accomplished without administrative dollars.

The administration of HB 2732 would require solicitation of applications from communities, review of contracts and specifications, application review and granting of awards, providing technical assistance to communities, on-site inspection of projects to insure compliance, processing reimbursements, processing of reports by grantees and filing of accomplishment reports with the legislature. Due to increasing demands on our staff to conduct mandated programs by both the state and federal government, we are asking for 13% of any appropriation to fund HB 2732 (up to a maximum of \$45,000) for administration of tree planting grant programs.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of Kansas State and Extension Forestry regarding HB 2732.



CITY OF TOPEKA

Department of Parks & Recreation
215 E. 7th Street Room 259
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Phone 913-295-3838

Park Maintenance
201 NW Topeka
Phone 913-232-1484

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kansas State Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Terry L. Bertels, City Forester

SUBJECT: HB-2732 - Relating to "Tree City USA" tree planting grant program.

DATE: March 18, 1994

The purchase and planting of trees has always demonstrated an investment in, and a commitment to the future of a home site, business, city or state. The planting of trees has long been used as a means to revitalize a depressed area. Trees are added to home landscapes to improve aesthetics and increase property values or to enhance resale potential. Trees are added to business landscapes to create an attractive, comfortable environment that is inviting to customers. Trees are added to City Parks to provide shade for play or a cool quiet place for park users to escape to. Trees are a universal means used to make areas more attractive and improve the vitality of all areas throughout a community. Passage of HB 2732 would be an opportunity for communities throughout the state to invest in their future and might act as a catalyst to stimulate dynamic economic growth in areas that would otherwise remain static.

Since the 1950's and the onset of Dutch Elm Disease in Topeka, our city trees have taken a beating. Literally thousands of trees had to be removed and are still being removed because of this disease. During this time the City of Topeka had no formal tree replacement program to offset the losses. Currently trees are removed because of hazardous situations brought on by advanced age, utility upgrades, road and sewer improvements, etc. Trees in our city parks have reached a point of decline. There are relatively few young trees in place to fill the void created when large trees need to be removed. The future result is a city park that is very low or devoid of trees.

In 1986 the City of Topeka recognized that it was being deficient in its commitment to the urban forest of Topeka. The City applied for and received "Tree City USA" status. This accreditation was achieved because the city operates an active division of forestry. The Division of Forestry had traditionally been used for the pruning and removal of trees in the City of Topeka. Since 1986 the role of the division has been expanded to include tree planting whenever possible. Funds for purchases of trees have come in the

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form if Community Development Block Grants, Small Business Administration grants and operating budgets for major street improvement projects in Topeka. Passage of HB 2732 would allow the City of Topeka to utilize another source of funding to purchase trees. Trees would be planted in areas of Topeka that are in need of economic stimulus. A gesture of this sort by city officials might provide confidence in individuals looking to purchase a home, might enhance an area to make it more attractive to business looking to relocate, would increase property values in the area and would certainly give the residents of the area a lift to know that the city feels that their area is important enough to receive an investment in its future. Other benefits to the economic development of Topeka are more obvious. Nurseries in the area would see their sales increase. Topeka would benefit greatly in that there are a number of nurseries that would benefit by providing trees to outlying communities that have received "Tree City USA" status. Seasonal employees would need to be hired on sooner or be retained later in the season to assist in the planting of the trees. These trees will need to be cared for requiring the hiring of additional personnel to assist in the maintenance program. Other benefits might not be so obvious but will add to the mix to make up an overall benefit to the cities that qualify.

This is a good return to an investment from the EDIF funds. To encourage tree planting by cities that have already shown a commitment to take care of their trees is to encourage the sound future of our communities and our state. To provide an incentive to other communities to seek "Tree City USA" status is ensuring good tree stewardship throughout the state and a promise of continued success in making Kansas a leader in the field of urban forestry. I urge you to approve HB 2732 and provide the funding necessary to carry out the tree planting program. Thank you.

Edward A. Geeding
2524 SW Brandywine Ln. #6
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Phone/Message
(913) 273-2862

March 21, 1994

To: Kansas Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

From: Edward Geeding, Urban Forest Consultant and Past Chairman
of the Northeast Urban Forestry Council.

RE: Passage of House Bill #2732

I want to thank the committee chairman for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill #2732, which is now being debated in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It is certainly an honor and a privilege to be addressing this body this morning.

As you can see from my title, I do not represent any particular community, however I feel I represent the needs of all Kansas communities because of my commitment to urban forestry. An urban forest is an integral part of any community, regardless of its size.

Ask anyone who lives in a Kansas community about the value of the urban forest, and you will get a wide range of answers.

Energy Conservation: According to researchers, tree planting is the most cost-effective way to conserve energy resources in both winter (properly placed trees and windbreaks) and summer (shade trees on the south and west sides of a building).

Economic Vitality: Planting trees around a house increases property value. According to numerous studies, landscaping, which includes trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent--an increment greater than most families' savings. Studies also show that people linger and shop longer along streets lined with trees than on those without, that apartments and offices rent faster in wooded areas than in nonwooded locations, and that tenants in wooded neighborhoods stay longer than is the case elsewhere.

Studies further indicate that communities with considerable parks, greenspaces and trees attract more residents, businesses, and tourists than communities with few natural areas, including trees. Finally, communities that actively engage in beautification projects which include parks, greenspaces, and of course trees, see a dramatic increase in property values. Property that is adjacent to park and forest areas tend to have higher property values than property that is not (Kanters and Botkin, 1992; Schoeneman, 1992; Howard and Crompton, 1980).

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Air Quality: Trees mitigate air pollution 1) directly, by absorbing and neutralizing pollutants, and 2) indirectly, by cooling communities.

Stormwater Control: Trees are effective in saving soil because their roots hold it in place and increase water infiltration.

Other Benefits: Trees also block and absorb noise pollution; provides wildlife habitat; provides climate amelioration, temperature modification, wind protection and air movement, and precipitation and humidity modification; and perhaps most of all, aesthetic value.

People see trees as an indicator of the quality of their communities. Yet publicly supported tree programs have taken a beating from the budget axe in previous years. In rationing their decisions, public officials have often suggested that the choice is between funding such activities as police, firefighting, road repair or funding tree programs. Because many city administrators aren't aware of the value, importance, or potential of trees in their communities, we should not let them off the hook when they try to give us limited options.

In addition to budgetary restrictions, when a crisis occurs like the Dutch elm disease epidemic or the more recent Halloween freeze in 1991 which caused a 30% loss of the urban forest resources in Western Kansas, communities lack the adequate funding to conduct the removal and replanting that is necessary to mitigate the problem.

From this brief discussion of the overall benefits of the urban forest, and the onslaught of constricting budgets and crisis management, one realizes that House Bill #2732 is good for Kansas communities. By providing a grant program to Tree City USA communities in Kansas, you reward the communities that have made a commitment to managing and cultivating their urban forest. Further, you will be sending a message of encouragement to communities not currently recognized as Tree City USA communities, to make the necessary commitments towards a more active urban forest program. Finally, urban forestry grants can provide much needed financial resources in Tree City USA communities that face constricting budgets.

Opponents of Section Two of this bill, which authorizes and allocates *Economic Development Initiatives Fund* dollars, should not be included to support this program because of the belief that urban forestry has nothing to do with economic development. From the previous discussion on the benefits of urban forestry, one can obviously realize the significance urban forestry has on economic development.

In conclusion, a yes vote in favor of this bill as it is now written represents a willingness to support urban forestry activities. However, willingness without action is meaningless.

Therefore, the allocation and authorization of the necessary funding for this program legitimizes your support to Tree City USA communities and encourages other communities to take action. I urge the committee to pass this important bill, and to appropriate the necessary funding to make this program worthwhile.

References

Howard, Dennis R., and Crompton, John L., 1980. Financing, Managing and Marketing Recreation and Park Resources, Wm. C. Brown Company Publishers: Dubuque, Iowa. Pages 406 - 426.

Kanters, Michael A., and Botkin, M. Randy, Fall, 1992. The Economic Impact of Public Leisure Services, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, Volume 10, Number 3, pages 1 - 15.

Schoeneman, Rita S., May, 1992. Trees in the Community: Managing the Urban Forest, *Management Information Services Report*, *International City/Council Management Association*, Volume 24, Number 5.

WEST MAIN LANDSCAPING
Larry Bitts
701 W. Main
Chanute, KS 66720
(316) 431-3554

March 21, 1994

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Don Salley, Chairperson

FROM: West Main Landscaping
Larry Bitts, owner

SUBJECT: HB 2732- Relating to Tree City USA Tree Planting
Grant Program

As a small business owner and member of the Southeast Kansas Urban Forestry Council, I support House Bill 2732. Besides air, it is hard to think of a natural resource more important to us than trees. In fact, the air we breathe depends on the oxygen that trees provide.

I was awarded a contract in 1993 to plant, and maintain for 3 years, 60 trees at our Industrial Park in Chanute. Along with the many benefits these trees will give, the money I receive from the project will be used for gasoline, insurance, supplies, and household living expenses. Each dollar I spend with Chanute business will be used seven more times, helping to keep a strong economy.

Planting the 60 trees in the area was a catch-on idea for other industries, as well. I have since sold 65 more trees to be planted this spring, further stimulating the economy and beautifying our town.

Another advantage of the grant program is that communities can be assured professional people from the green industry are used to plant the trees, if they so choose. Planting and maintenance of trees requires good observation skills, an understanding of tree growth, and a small amount of time.

Many of the trees used in tree planting projects are grown in Kansas, which helps the state's economy. I use teen-aged kids' help, which provides employment and learning for them. This also helps our community.

In closing, I urge you to pass House Bill 2732. Not only will this help stimulate the green industry economy, but the economy of the state in general. The trees planted will help make our great state more beautiful and a better place to live.



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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing HB 2732

Chairman Sallee and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of to HB 2732... concerning the planting of Trees in Cities and Towns in Kansas.

I urge you on behalf of the members of the Kansas Urban Forestry Councils to amend this bill and pass it on with a favorable recommendation to the full senate for consideration.

Trees fall into the category of Motherhood and Apple pie and I am sure everyone in the room and on the committee thinks planting trees is a great idea. Members of the Kansas Urban Forestry Councils think so too and have been engaged in the promoting of that activity for the past 3 years. Kansas can be proud of the fact that they rank 6th in the Nation with community participation in the Tree City Program. Volunteers in all communities through out Kansas have made this possible without any assistance from the State budget other than that provided to K. State. We, the members of the Councils, find ourselves in the position of needing to do more in our communities with the volunteer labor we have. There are over 400 citizens engaged in Cities and Towns, planing, planting and maintaining trees. It is not the volunteer commitment we are lacking, but the dollars. Kansas does not have funding for an Urban Forestry Program. We rank last in all the states in dollars allocated for any kind of forestry, not just Urban Forestry. For this reason we find it necessary to request funds to continue and enhance the planting of trees in Cities and Towns. You may ask "why is Urban Forestry special, after all people have been planting trees for years and doing just fine? ". And the answer to that is, the trees in Cities and Towns need more care and tending because they live under adverse stressful conditions. Homeowners, who are further from the traditions of the land need information on trees that will succeed in their area and under what conditions to plant them. These are different than the tradition kinds of information Forestry has been successful in passing on in the past.

This bill left the house with its funding provision dropped (Sec. 2 ..article H..line 20) . I urge you to restore the funding to the bill and pass it out of your committee. The funding method suggested in the original bill came from the EDIF fund available to the State from the proceeds of the Lottery. While this fund is earmarked for "Economic Development" and some may argue that planting trees can not be considered Economic Development, after having served, in a past life, as a director of a Chamber of Commerce, I would suggest that making our cities and towns more hospitable creates the ambiance that encourages those engaged in site searches to look twice.

We would also urge you to amend the bill to correct the requirements so they are identical with the requirements of the Tree City Program. (attached) We strongly support this correction, because we believe that in order for the program to work there must be commitment to not only the planting of trees but to the maintenance and appreciation of trees. All of those things come about by meeting the simple requirements of the TREE CITY USA program. We have no desire to see this become a "rat hole" fund for Cities to enhance other programs. We want to see this program administered by the State Forester and his staff who have ample and successful experience in administering and providing leadership for this type of program.

Again thank you for the opportunity to testify and again I urge you to vote in favor of the amendments as suggested and pass this on with a favorable recommendation.

Patti Armstrong , 12036 W. 239th St. , Bucyrus, KS. 66013 ...913-533-4043
Vice Chairman,
Kansas Urban Forestry Councils

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Section 1.. article P.. line 9

establish an urban forestry program to administer grants to Tree City USA's for the purchase of trees from Kansas nurseries to be planted on public property. To qualify as a Tree City USA, as designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the State Forester, a city must have:

- (1) An official tree board or department
- (2) A tree ordinance providing for the planting and care of the Public tree resource
- (3) An Urban or Community Forestry program with an annual expenditure of a least \$2 per capita, and

(4) *An Arbor Day observance and proclamation.*

The State Forester shall award annually grants of up to \$5,000 to each qualified tree CITY USA from the urban forestry fund which is hereby created. All money credited to the urban forestry fund shall be expended for the payment of grants awarded for the planing of trees pursuant to this subsection and for the administration of the Urban forestry program. Those Tree City USA's that receive grants must file an annual report as required by State and Extension Forestry. k State and Extension Forestry shall file an annual report of accomplishments to the legislature. All expenditures from the urban forestry fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon which warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the State Forester or by a person or persons designated by the State Forester.



**League
of Kansas
Municipalities**

PUBLISHERS OF KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL 112 S.W. 7TH TOPEKA, KS 66603-3896 (913) 354-9565 FAX (913) 354-4186

TO: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Chris McKenzie, Executive Director *Chris McKenzie*

DATE: March 20, 1994

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2732

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of HB 2732. The quality of the urban environment, in large and small cities alike, is one of the most important factors in a city's economic and social health. Moreover, cities with well shaded streets and parks not only are more visually attractive, but they show a high degree of concern about the environment which most people share and support today.

As you have heard from other conferees, "Tree Cities" in Kansas already have made a substantial commitment to the planting and care of trees. The state of Kansas can play a supporting role in making the cities of Kansas more liveable through the program envisioned by HB 2732, and we urge you to give it your favorable consideration.

Thank you

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March 14, 1994

Senator Don Sallee
Chairperson
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Kansas State Senate
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Sallee,

I believe establishing an urban forestry program through passage of House Bill 2732 is of utmost importance to the residence of the State of Kansas, but also to other citizens of our country. A urban forestry program as outlined in House Bill No. 2732 would afford the technical assistance which small and urban communities cannot financially support.

Passage of this House Bill would help save the present wooded areas from indiscriminate cutting of trees, such as river banks, fence rows and wind breaks that were established during the dust bowl years. In the past five years or so, many good hedge trees have been destroyed by bull dozing out and burning. This action causes habitat of small animals and birds to be destroyed. These small animals and birds are much much more efficient and are less health hazard than herbicides.

Passing this House Bill would let us gain professional help in caring of trees, such as, Arborist, gardeners, yard care people. Many trees and plants are planted each year, only to be desposed of by fall, due to lack of proper care. Grants made to Tree Cities USA could assist many small nurseries and communities, without the financial resources to do this on their own.

Passage of House Bill 2732 will bring about and start changing our environment to be more healthy. The link between trees and the health of our environment is undeniable. We owe it to the younger generation, children, grandchildren to leave this wonderful State in the best

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possible condition for them. Since there seems to be no reference to funding, maybe using some of the gaming revenues which are to be issued in Economic Development, that don't usually get down to small communities and could be used for this project.

I wish to thank you for this opportunity to relay my feelings on this issue to you strongly and urge you to support House Bill 2732.

Sincerely,

Clarence Brown

Clarence Brown

Southeast Urban Forestry District

Chair Person