

Approved: April 1, 1994
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Oleen at 11:05 a.m. on March 8, 1994 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Sen. Vidricksen was excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jeanne Eudaley, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
See attached agenda

Others attending: See attached list

Sen. Oleen opened the hearing for SB 818 and asked Mary Galligan to brief the committee on the bill. The following appeared as proponents:

Judge James Wells, who gave brief remarks and introduced Judge Joseph Cox;
Judge Joseph Cox, (Attachment 1);
Judge George Catt, (Attachment 2).

Sen. Ramirez asked Judge Cox why there has not been legislation in the past to permit municipal court judges to marry, and Judge Cox responded he feels it was an oversight. He explained the Justice of the Peace could perform marriages. However, in 1974 with consolidation of the Justice of the Peace, the police judge and police court into the municipal court, the power to marry couples was not incorporated into the municipal court process. Sen. Gooch asked if the municipal judges are required to be attorneys, and Judge Cox explained that in First Class cities, they are required to be an attorney; however, in Second and Third Class cities, they do not have to be an attorney. He added that over one-half of the municipal court judges in Second and Third Class cities are not attorneys. Sen. Oleen clarified that if the municipal court judge is not an attorney, then he cannot perform the ceremony. She also questioned about pre-wedding counseling and if a fee is requested, where does it go? Judge Cox responded that if a municipal court judge wishes to perform a wedding, he must make the request from a district court judge, who then must appoint the municipal court judge as judge pro-tem for the day. If the judge is not an attorney, he is not allowed to perform the wedding after hours. Judge Cox stated there is no set fee and some will perform the ceremony and not charge a fee. He stated the fee goes to the state if the ceremony takes place during working hours. He also stated some members of the clergy approached the Municipal Judges Association to request the judges set the fee at \$50.00; however, the association made the decision to request legislation without setting a fee. Sen. Jones asked what authority gives the district court judges the right to marry and where does the authority come from that a ship captain can perform the ceremony. Judge Cox answered state law authorizes district court judges to marry; the ship captain, provided he is outside the continental limits, is governed by Maritime Law. Sen. Ramirez asked if municipal judges can only perform in the city, or if he could marry someone in another part of the state. Judge Cox replied there are restrictions throughout the state and in particular, Wyandotte County, where judges are requested to perform a ceremony in Missouri, and Missouri judges are requested to marry in Kansas. It depends upon whether the city is a Port of Record, but there are restrictions which are not clear. Judge Catt stated the Municipal Court Judges Association has been concerned about the quality of judges and the continuity of their programs and have instituted a test program and an educational program, with good results. There were no opponents to the bill, and Sen. Oleen closed the hearing.

Sen. Oleen opened the hearing for SB 497, and Mary Galligan briefed the committee on the bill. Sen. Oleen recognized two of the bill's sponsors, Sen. Harris and Sen. Steffes. Sen. Steffes asked the committee to support the bill, and the following proponents gave testimony supporting the bill:

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 254-E
Statehouse, at 11:05 a.m. on March 8, 1994.

Sen. Harris, ([Attachment 3](#));
Alice Potts, ([Attachment 4](#));
Courtney Glasper, ([Attachment 5](#));
Chris Obando, ([Attachment 6](#));
Cheri Freund, ([Attachment 7](#));
Betsy Hughes, ([Attachment 8](#));
Students from Lincoln Elementary School, in unison, ([Attachment 9](#));
Sarah Twemlow, ([Attachment 10](#));
Jared Nance, ([Attachment 11](#));
Larry Miller, ([Attachment 12](#)).

After the testimony, the students from OK Elementary School displayed a map, showing where salamanders have been sighted, cities where the students have written letters, and T-shirts with the picture of BT on it, which the students have sold. The students also showed to the committee the original BT salamander (displayed in his case). Mrs. Potts stated the school has four salamanders, but this is the original BT. Sen. Oleen thanked the students and told of the legislators receiving post cards, and phone calls. She announced the bill will be discussed at a later date, as is the committee policy. Mrs. Potts thanked the committee for listening to the students and for considering the bill.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Federal & State Affairs

DATE: MARCH 8, 1994

| NAME (PLEASE PRINT) | ADDRESS | COMPANY/ORGANIZATION |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Rita Rhodes | 2938 W 21 st Wichita | O.K. Elementary |
| Inogene Hughes | 5425 SW Union Topeka | visitor |
| George L. CAIT | 3300 Mesa Way Suite ^{Lawrence} KS | KANSAS Municipal Judges |
| Joseph L. Cox | 910 SE 43rd Topeka | Kansas Municipal Judges |
| James E. Wells | 314 SE 8th Topeka KS | Kansas Municipal Judges |
| Teresa Northern Miller | 2133 Vaughn ^{Manhattan} KS | Amanda Arnold Elem |
| Courtney L. Glasper | 1346 W Fairview | O.K. Elementary |
| Chris Orlando | 4001 Westport | O.K. Elementary |
| Cheri Freund | 2021 North Meridian | O.K. Elementary |
| Betsey Hughes | 2901 Oriole W. | C 11 |
| Larry L. Miller | 209 S.E. 59 th Topeka, KS | Topeka Collegiate School |
| Jared name | 209 S.E. 59 th Topeka, KS | Topeka Collegiate School |
| Sarah Twemlow | 209 S.E. 59 th Topeka, KS | Topeka Collegiate School |
| Jim Carpenter | Lawrence | Turner-Wald |
| Beth Lawrence | 124 NW ^{1380 Ely} Greenwood KS | Self |
| Julie Wright | | Wichita Eagle |
| Lydia David | | AP |
| Carla Davis | 3021 SE 10th | Inter/Sen Good |
| Carrie Sherman | 2942 N. Barbier | McPherson |
| Mary Ellen Wade | 900 N. Ash | McPherson, KS. |
| Trenton Schuckman | 1321 Oakland | McPherson |
| Butch Deist | 505 N. cedar | McPherson |
| Tiffany Dussell | Rt 3 Box 11A | McPherson |
| Jose Haimdman | 1013 Heatherwood | McPherson |
| Laura L. Baldwin | Lincoln Elem. 900 N. Ash | McPherson |

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Federal & State Affairs

DATE: March 8, 1994

[illegible]

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Lana Oleen, Chairperson
Ben Vidricksen, Vice-chairperson
Lillian Papay
Mark Parkinson
Sandy Praeger
Al Ramirez
Carolyn Tillotson
Sherman Jones
U. L. Rip Gooch
Anthony Hensley
Doug Walker

Re: Senate Bill 818

Report of Joseph L. Cox, Municipal Judge from the City of Topeka, Kansas, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the State Municipal Judges Association, and president of the Association in 1977 and 1978.

Also attending for the Association is James E. Wells, Administrative Judge of The Municipal Court of the City of Topeka, Kansas, a member of the Municipal Judges' Certification Committee, and president of the Association in 1988 and 1989.

Also attending for the Association is George Catt, Municipal Judge of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, a member of the Board of Directors of the Association for the past three years, and president of the Association in 1976 and 1977.

Attached to this report is a letter from Patrick Caffey, Municipal Judge for the City of Manhattan, Kansas, and president of the association in 1990 and 1991.

The Municipal Judges at their annual convention in May, 1993 voted unanimously to ask the 1994 Legislature to grant to the municipal judges for the State of Kansas, the privilege to marry people in the State.

The request is made to satisfy a need that now exists. Judge Catt from Lawrence, Kansas, receives an average of two requests each week to marry a couple. Judge Benson from Sedgwick County, receives an average of three requests a week to marry a couple. Both of these judges can fulfill the request. However, it is inconvenient because at the present time they have to request the District Court to appoint them Judge Pro Tem so that they can perform the marriage. These two judges are fortunate.

Senate Fed + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 1

page 2
Senate Bill 818
Joseph L. Cox report

In Kansas, we have approximately 625 Cities and over 300 Municipal Judges. Some of the judges serve more than one city. Of these municipal judges, over one half are judges who are not attorneys, but who have been certified by the Certification Committee of Municipal Judges as having the necessary qualifications to sit as a judge in the State of Kansas. These judges, however, when asked to perform a marriage must decline the request. Since these judges are not lawyers, they can not be appointed as a Judge Pro Tem.

In the society in which we live, the number of divorces has increased. Now over one half of the marriages end in divorce. There are a great many priests and pastors in this state who will not perform a marriage for someone that has been divorced. Their only hope of marriage is to find a judge that will marry them or keep seeking some minister that will marry people that have been divorced.

Until 1974, the State of Kansas had elected officials known as Justices of the Peace. These officials had the power to marry people. The Legislature at about the same time consolidated all of the duties of the Justice of the Peace, the Police Judge, and Police Court into the Municipal Court. This was done to create an even system of justice in the lowest court in the State of Kansas. The one item that was not incorporated into the creation of the new court was the power to marry couples.

The Municipal Judges Association is asking for the ratification of Senate Bill 818 so that a need that now exists in the State of Kansas can be fulfilled. We are seeking this privilege to have the function that the public wants us to have and to have it granted by the legislature so that lay judges can have the same power that lawyer judges have when it is freely granted by the District Court..

Respectfully submitted.



MANHATTAN MUNICIPAL COURT

555 Poyntz Colony Square Suite 165 Manhattan, Kansas 66502 (913) 776-1470

March 4, 1994

Judge Joe Cox
Municipal Court
214 SE 8th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Dear Judge Cox:

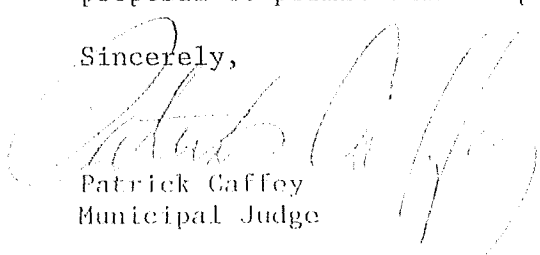
I am writing this letter for you to submit to the legislative committee in support of the proposal to permit municipal court judges to perform marriages. As a long time member and former president of the Kansas Municipal Judges Association, I can tell you that among our association there is a great deal of support for (and no opposition to) the idea of municipal court judges being permitted to perform weddings.

At the present time marriages may be performed by a clergyman or by an active or retired judge or justice of a "court of record." It is my understanding that, at the present time that is construed to include all active or retired supreme court justices, judges of the court of appeals, district court judges and district magistrates. There is no logical reason not to include municipal court judges as well. All municipal court judges are now certified by the Supreme Court. They pass a test similar to the district magistrates and they must meet all the same qualifications as a magistrate.

Municipal court judges do not have a court reporter, but then neither do district magistrates in most jurisdictions. I have never known of a court reporter making a transcript of a wedding ceremony anyway. I firmly believe that there is ample reason for allowing municipal judges to perform marriages and no logical reason to prevent it.

On behalf of the municipal judges of Kansas I request that you support the proposal to permit them to perform marriage ceremonies.

Sincerely,


Patrick Caffey
Municipal Judge

PC/sk

**STATEMENT OF GEORGE L. CATT IN FAVOR OF BILL TO ALLOW
MUNICIPAL JUDGES TO PERFORM MARRIAGES IN KANSAS**

I wish to go on record as supporting any legislation which will authorize Municipal Judges in the State of Kansas to perform marriage ceremonies. We have eliminated the Justice of the Peace in Kansas, who was a mainstay for non-religious marriage ceremonies for many, many years. Nothing was ever done to fill this void.

I have been a Municipal Judge in the State of Kansas for twenty-two years and am requested, on a weekly basis, to perform marriage ceremonies, because I am well known to be the Municipal Judge. It is very difficult to explain to someone that you do not have that power when a District Judge or a District Magistrate Judge can perform a marriage ceremony.

The only question or limitation that I might perceive would be a limitation that a Municipal Judge not perform marriage ceremonies outside the municipality in which he or she has jurisdiction as Municipal Judge.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of March, 1994.



GEORGE L. CATT
MUNICIPAL JUDGE OF THE CITY OF
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Senate Fed + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 2

March 8, 1994

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify concerning S.B. 497. Although the bill was introduced this session the matter was actually brought to my attention last session by Mrs. Potts, a teacher at O.K. Elementary in Wichita.

S.B. 497 establishes the Barred Tiger Salamander as the official State Amphibian. "B.T." as he is affectionately known would not displace any other amphibian since there is now no official state amphibian. The bill's proponents will tell you why B.T. deserves to be the state amphibian. I will only tell you that B.T. is indigenous to every county in every House and Senate District so no legislator could be genuinely offended by B.T.'s designation.

Recently the A.P. pronounced B.T. dead for this session. But since this bill is in an exempt committee, one filled with members who appreciate good citizenship, I am confident that, as Mark Twain once said, report of his death are greatly exaggerated. Madam Chair, as a master teacher, you will be able to recognize good and hard work when you see it. The proponents of this bill have done their homework well. B. T. is not special legislation, but is legislation by special people.

I am aware that the press has made fun of this bill and how supposedly unimportant it is. Isn't it ironic that the same press which tearfully exploits the plight of our children tells them to go away when they come to the legislature - that their idea is unimportant.

Our children are indeed our future. And if present trends in voter turnout are an indication of concern for good citizenship then I suggest we give these children our attention and demonstrate that we will act upon a good idea - even if it comes only from children.

Mike Harris
Senator, District 27

MH:dr

Senate Fed + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 3

Alice Potts
ATTACH 4

THE BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER
for
KANSAS STATE AMPHIBIAN

A little more than a year ago, twenty three students in my second grade class initiated a campaign to have the Barred Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum mavortium*) named the Kansas State Amphibian. Today this project has grown to include our entire school and hundreds of students across the state. Last March my class was studying the five animal groups with backbones (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). As a part of our study, the class took a trip to the Sedgwick County Department of Environmental Management's "mini-museum and hands on learning center." It was here that the students were introduced to Hope --- a barred tiger salamander.

Upon our return to school, each student was asked to draw and write about something new they had learned at the museum. Many of the students drew and wrote about the salamander. During a class discussion following this activity, one student asked if Kansas had a State Amphibian. (We had done an integrated study of Kansas just a month earlier.) I told them we did not, but perhaps they could change that, as most of the state symbols were the result of Kansas school children working together.

We did some research on amphibians in Kansas and decided that perhaps the barred tiger salamander would be a good candidate for Kansas State Amphibian. After we completed our research we wrote letters to legislators from the Sedgwick County Delegation. Within a week we received our first replies --- and what excitement it created! The legislators who responded were most supportive, but said it was too late in the session to have a bill written and introduced. Several suggested we try again in the fall.

I shared this information with my principal, Mrs. George, and she suggested that it might become a school-wide project and be a part of our building improvement outcomes.

Senate Led + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 4

During the summer months I contacted several herpetologists in the state to see if they agreed that our choice of was a good one. They all concurred that we were on "the right track."

When the '93-'94 school term began, the B.T. Salamander for State Amphibian project was presented to the OK Elementary staff. They embraced the idea enthusiastically. Later the parents, the PTA, and the student council also became involved.

During the first week of October our school composed and mailed a letter to 1200 elementary school principals throughout the state. Within two weeks we began receiving requests for additional information on the project. To date we have received nearly 80 requests from Kansas schools.

On November 17th OK Elementary students mailed letters to each legislator in the state. In less than a week we had our first reply! Each letter was hung in the main hallway of our school with photos and news articles about the project. Not only have we heard from the legislators, but from Kansas citizens as well.

January was a busy month. The '94 legislative session began. Student representatives from each classroom appeared on Channel 10's "Mike and Mogie Show." Two fine articles, regarding the project, appeared in the Wichita newspapers, plus an article was published in *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine. By Kansas Day, January 29th, color postcards of B.T. Salamander had been sent to all legislators in the state.

This project has given us many opportunities for cross curricular learning. We used science skills in the study of amphibians, research skills to locate information, oral and written communication skills in numerous ways, geography skills in locating Kansas towns and cities, and acquired an understanding of the governmental process through communications with legislators. The highlight of our activities was a Kansas Day assembly starring B.T.

The most important lesson that we have learned is that, in order to meet a goal, we must go about things in an orderly way. We learned that the "process" is very important, and that we can make a difference! With a dream and cooperative effort great things can be accomplished. Our children have learned that they too can be a part of the democratic process.

- Alice Potts

WHY DOES KANSAS NEED A STATE AMPHIBIAN?

Amphibians are a group of secretive animals that live in and around water. Scientists believe that these animals can tell us about the health of our environment, particularly streams and wetlands. Because they absorb chemicals through their skin they can easily become ill and even die from pollution in the water.

A disturbing bit of news has been coming out in recent years--- amphibians are rapidly decreasing worldwide! These decreasing numbers are telling us that, among other things, pollution and destruction of wetlands are making it very hard for them to survive. By dying out, amphibians are telling us that something is terribly wrong with the environment. Their sensitivity to environmental change is telling us that, perhaps soon, these problems will affect other animals and even man.

A designated amphibian for our state will help Kansans focus on this animal and on the environmental problems that we are facing.

- Courtney Glasper

Senate Fed + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 5

WHO IS THE BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER?

Lets take a look at the barred tiger salamander, as a scientist would look at it. It is an amphibian, which means it has a "double life", one life in water and one life on land. It lays its eggs in the water. The eggs hatch into larva with gills. When they grow up to be adults with legs they can leave the water and hunt for insects and worms on land. Their skin must keep moist so they must stay close to water.

Salamanders are sometimes mistaken for lizards, but they don't have scales and claws like lizards. Toads and frogs are other examples of amphibians.

The name B.T. comes from the initials for Barred Tiger. We chose it because it sounded like a "catchy" name to go with our campaign, yet would not detract from the salamander itself.

- Chris Obando

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 6

MORE ABOUT B.T. AND ITS RELATIVES

In Kansas there are 8 different kinds of salamanders. The Barred Tiger salamander is the only one that is found all over the state. Salamanders like moist places to live. They live in caves, near streams, ditches, or in underground burrows. They sometimes adopt other animals homes, such as prairie dogs and cray fish.

Salamanders are carnivores. They eat lots of insects, earthworms and about anything else small enough to swallow. They have no teeth, so the body juices digest their food.

B.T.'s scientific name is *Ambystoma tigrinum mavortium*. They are "ground color black" or dark brown. They have yellow bars on their bodies. Many grow to be 6 to 8 inches in length. The largest record of a B.T. in Kansas is 11 inches.

- Cheri Freund

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 7

OF ALL THE AMPHIBIANS IN KANSAS
WHY IS B.T. THE BEST CHOICE FOR STATE AMPHIBIAN?

The Barred Tiger salamander:

1. is found throughout the state.
2. helps keep nature in balance by eating lots of insects.
3. is an indicator of environmental pollution.
4. is not harmful to humans.
5. always wears a smile.
6. has a distinctive coloration which makes it easy to recognize.
(Once you've seen it you won't forget it.)
7. wears the Kansas colors. (The blackish-brown body with large yellow bars makes its color like other Kansas symbols: the Bison; the Western Meadowlark; the Ornate Box Turtle; the Honeybee, and the sunflower.)
8. can reach lengths up to 13 inches, making it the largest salamander in the world.
9. is hardy and "persistent."
10. does well in captivity.
11. does not hibernate.
12. is active throughout the winter. (Its breeding season is from December to March.)
13. can live more than twenty years.
14. is a rugged species whose "ability to survive throughout the state parallels the pioneer spirit of early Kansans" *Natural Kansas* (1985).

- Betsy Hughes

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 8



Our project started last fall when our teacher's son, Chris Wade, found 5 Barred Tiger Salamanders in their back yard. Mrs. Wade brought them to school for us to observe. We had been studying them for a month when we heard about the campaign to have the Barred Tiger Salamander named the Kansas State Amphibian. WE THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT IDEA!!!

Since then, we have been involved in the following projects and activities:

- B-Became teachers to other classrooms by sharing salamanders
- A-Artwork began to cover the walls of our school
- R-Read about salamanders
- R-Researched salamanders
- E-Eagerly followed Salamander Bill
- D-Dialed legislators

- T-T-shirts
- I-Included them in many subject areas
- G-Graphed their eating habits
- E-Excited students and teachers !!!
- R-Replied to newspaper editorials

- S-Sent over 600 cards and letters
- A-Activities on the computer
- L-Learned governmental process
- A-Amphibian mania !!
- M-Made charts and bulletin boards
- A-Awaiting our new Kansas State Amphibian
- N-Newspaper articles written about us
- D-Displayed the books and journals we wrote
- E-Experts on salamanders
- R-Role played "How a Bill Becomes a Law"

We were taught that all people have a voice in our government. We have learned it well. The students at Lincoln Elementary School in McPherson, Ks. want our voice to count.

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 9

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER
AS THE OFFICIAL STATE AMPHIBIAN OF KANSAS

March 8, 1994

Sarah Twemlow, 5th Grade Student
Topeka Collegiate School

The Barred Tiger Salamander is the happiest amphibian around. Good morning. My name is Sarah Twemlow. I am representing Topeka Collegiate School. The people at our school think that the Barred Tiger Salamander should be the state amphibian. Here are a few of their views.

The Barred Tiger Salamander is friendly and always seems to be smiling. Its colors are brown and yellow. All of the state symbols including the Sunflower, the Bison, the Honey Bee, the Cottonwood Tree, the Ornate Box Turtle, and the Western Meadowlark are based on the two colors of the salamander. If the Barred Tiger Salamander is chosen, Kansas will be one of the few, if not the only, states in which the symbols are based on the same two colors. The colors of the salamander remind me of the Kansas land.

This friendly, colorful amphibian is found everywhere in Kansas. It is one of the most widely spread salamanders in North America. It eats insects that are harmful to crops, and thus reduces the use of dangerous pesticides. This habit helps stop pollution from such chemicals.

I think the Barred Tiger Salamander deserves to be the state amphibian, and I hope you do too. So keep the Barred Tiger Salamander smiling and elect it the state amphibian. Thank you.

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 10

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE
BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER FOR
THE OFFICIAL STATE AMPHIBIAN

JARED NANCE, FIFTH GRADE STUDENT
TOPEKA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

8 MARCH 1994

Hello, my name is Jared Nance. I am a fifth grader, and I am representing Topeka Collegiate School. I think the Barred Tiger Salamander should be our state amphibian because it is yellow and about as close to black as you can get. Those are the same colors as our other state symbols.

The Barred Tiger Salamander is found in all parts of Kansas. It eats harmful insects and other pests. It does not create an ecological problem (as far as it is known), and it is always (who knows why?) smiling. Why does it smile? Maybe it is because it knows it has the chance of becoming the state amphibian. Please keep the Barred Tiger Salamander smiling.

Senate Fed. + State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 11

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF S.B. 497

A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER

THE OFFICIAL STATE AMPHIBIAN OF KANSAS

GIVEN ON 8 MARCH 1994 BY:

LARRY L. MILLER, SCIENCE TEACHER

TOPEKA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

201 S.E. 59TH STREET

TOPEKA, KS 66619

Good morning. My name is Larry Miller, and I am the upper school science teacher at Topeka Collegiate School, and a past president of the Kansas Herpetological Society. On behalf of Topeka Collegiate School I want to thank you for allowing Sarah, Jared and me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 497 today. I would also like to commend Alice Potts and the other teachers and students at OK Elementary School in Wichita for working so diligently in favor of such a fine choice for our state amphibian.

Kansas has a number of fitting state symbols. It is with great enthusiasm many of our citizens await the addition of the Barred Tiger Salamander to that exclusive list. The Barred Tiger Salamander is a unique animal that has proven it can survive in many areas that prove too hostile for other species of amphibians. Like Kansas pioneers, it has been a true survivor that can represent our state well.

In closing, I am sure all of you are aware of the declining amphibian populations in all parts of the world. To officially declare a state amphibian for Kansas would do more than just satisfy the desires of school children from across our state. It would be a positive step toward acknowledging that our great state realizes the importance of all forms of life. I urge each of you to give this bill the serious and enthusiastic support it so rightly deserves. Thank you.

Senate Fed. State
March 8, 1994
Attachment 12