

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives



**Vince Wetta**

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Chairman Powell  
and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee.

I am here to introduce the Chamber Director in Wellington, KS. The Bill (HB2563) will simply change the name of the Wellington Wheat Festival to the Kansas Wheat Festival. It is my understanding that this is the only Wheat Festival in Kansas. As Sumner County is the largest wheat producer, historically, it is fitting that our festival would be the official Kansas Wheat Festival.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vince".

Rep. Vince Wetta  
2-15-2012

# *Wellington Chamber of Commerce*

*207 South Washington, Wellington, KS 67152*

*620-326-7466      www.wellingtonks.org*

Chairman Powell and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee

First of all...thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of our community of Wellington, our County which is Sumner in South Central Kansas, our Wheat Festival steering committee and all the Kansas wheat farmers our festival has celebrated since 1900 and will hopefully continue to honor for generations to come.

*“When the business men of Wellington decided to inaugurate a Sumner County Jubilee and Wheat Carnival to celebrate the record breaking wheat crop of 1900, it says they embarked in an enterprise without local precedents to guide them.”*

That is a quote from the original Jubilee Souvenir program from the 1900 celebration which began as the Sumner County Jubilee and Wheat Carnival and has now 112 years later has come to be known as the Wheat Festival.

The Wheat Festival of today is a five day celebration that we, the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce, pull off with the help of a lot of volunteers and support from our businesses and community. However, the festival has always struggled with our current name...are we the Sumner County Wheat Festival...well no, it's a County Fair in Caldwell. Are we the Well

Festival, no, this festival represents so much more than just our town. So why not be the Kansas Wheat Festival...a celebration that encompasses the rich history of farmers all over this great wheat state of ours. But why the Wheat Festival in Wellington...in the heart of Sumner County? *"It is said that Queen Victoria, when the first yacht race was sailed in 1851 was told that an American yacht was the first to cross the finish line...when she inquired, and who was second" She was told There is no second your Majesty. Equally true is it of Sumner County that in wheat raising no other county in Kansas is really in her class...and wheat is the stuff out of which the staff of life is made."*

We believe in our Kansas Wheat Farmers and we believe it is time to take this festival to the next level and make it the official Kansas Wheat Festival...a celebration of all farmers in our great state. Through the leadership of our State Representative, Vince Wetta, we already hold an Ag and Energy lunch during the festival. We crown a Wheat King based on samples brought in by area farmers which will now be open to the whole state. We are planning to have an implement show and antique tractor display along with our car show...and we are in the works of putting together a wheat beer tasting...just to give you a sample of some of the things we are doing to bring more attention to all that Wheat represents to our state. I have made contact with the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Wheat Commission.

So in closing, I once again refer to the Jubilee program...

*"A county of 25,000 people with a crop of a worth four million dollars is pretty well fixed. visit if you have the price of a railroad ticket*

*of the big Jubilee and Wheat carnival or hopefully, we can say, during the Kansas Wheat Festival...is a good time to come!!"*

Thanks for your time and consideration and I ask that you send House Bill 2563 on to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you.

  
HOUSE BILL No. 2563

By Representative Wetta

1-27

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1 AN ACT designating the annual Kansas wheat festival held in Wellington,  
2 Kansas as the official state wheat festival.

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4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. The annual Kansas wheat festival held in the city of  
6 Wellington, located in Sumner county, Kansas is hereby designated the  
7 official state wheat festival.

8 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
9 publication in the statute book.