

# AB 267 TESTIMONY

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SUBMITTED BY:

SCOTT E. SUDER

ON BEHALF OF

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT K. ZUKOWSKI

WISCONSIN'S 69<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Thank you for Chairman Ott, Honorable  
Committee Members, and special guests for  
this opportunity to testify before the  
Assembly Agriculture Committee regarding  
Assembly Bill 267. AB 267 designates  
Colby Cheese as the official state cheese of  
Wisconsin.

The only cheese native to the United States originated during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in a small city in Northern Wisconsin called Colby. Colby is located on the Marathon and Clark County line.

This location is significant, as Clark County and Marathon County are number 1 and number 2 in milk production in the state, respectively.

In 1885, Joseph Steinwand developed a new variety of dairy product which would eventually bear the name "Colby Cheese" derived from its city of origin. This significant event has made the city of Colby, Wisconsin a historical landmark.

Since that time, Colby cheese has flourished and today is recognized as one of the premiere cheese varieties throughout the world.

Colby Cheese is unique to Wisconsin, and the United States. Most other cheese varieties are of European descent. I believe it is time that we begin renewing our confidence in and celebrating the pride we hold in our state and country by honoring Colby Cheese as an historic commodity.

We all know our dairy industry is the backbone of our economy here in Wisconsin.

Given the problems our dairy industry is experiencing today, we must do all we can to actively promote Wisconsin's cheese industry. Recognizing Colby cheese as the official cheese of Wisconsin would go a long way toward promoting our dairy industry as well as bring in much-needed tourism dollars to Colby, Wisconsin.

It is important to note that every 1 pound of Wisconsin cheese sold, means a farmer has sold another 10 pounds of milk to produce that cheese.

Thus, not only is it critical that we acknowledge the very things which have made our state so successful, we must actively promote them in order to keep our economy alive for our family farmers.

As Wisconsinites, we take great pride in our special heritage. Likewise, the unique story of Colby cheese, named after the great city of Colby, deserves to be recognized for its contribution to our state's history.

Unquestionably, Colby cheese is a success story which the residents of Northern Wisconsin take great pride in sharing.



On behalf of Colby cheese producers,  
the City of Colby, Wisconsin, and our entire  
agricultural community, I strongly  
encourage you to support AB 267 and make  
colby cheese the official cheese of  
Wisconsin.

Thank you again for this opportunity to  
testify before the Assembly Agriculture  
Committee today. I would be happy to  
answer any questions that members of the  
committee may have at this time.

# Vote Record

## Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 5-29-97  
 Moved by: Zukowski Seconded by: Gronemus  
 AB: 247 Clearinghouse Rule: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AB: \_\_\_\_\_ SB: \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR: \_\_\_\_\_ SJR: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A: \_\_\_\_\_ SR: \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
  - Indefinite Postponement
  - Introduction
  - Tabling
  - Adoption
  - Concurrence
  - Rejection
  - Nonconcurrency
  - Confirmation

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Clifford Otte	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. David Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Robert Zukowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Rick Skindrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Springer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Robert Dueholm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 11      3      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/1/97

Bill No. ABA 67  
Or  
Subject "COLDY CHEESE" BILL

(Name) SCOTT SUDRE

106 SECOND AVE #3  
(Street Address or Route Number) ABAOTSFORD WI 54605  
(City & Zip Code) STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT K. ZUKASKE  
(Representing)

- Speaking In favor:
  - Speaking against:
  - Registering In favor:
  - Registering against:
  - Speaking for Information only:
  - Neither for nor against:
- Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5.1.97

Bill No. ~~ABA 267~~ 267  
Or  
Subject

(Name) John Imhaefer

P.O. Box 2133  
(Street Address or Route Number) Madison WI 53701  
(City & Zip Code) Wis. Cheese Makers Assn.  
(Representing)

- Speaking In favor:
  - Speaking against:
  - Registering In favor:
  - Registering against:
  - Speaking for Information only:
  - Neither for nor against:
- Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/1/97

Bill No. AB-267  
Or  
Subject

(Name) David Nispel

3 S. Pinckney St  
(Street Address or Route Number) Madison 53702  
(City & Zip Code) Wis. Farmers Unit  
(Representing)

- Speaking In favor:
  - Speaking against:
  - Registering In favor:
  - Registering against:
  - Speaking for Information only:
  - Neither for nor against:
- Please return this slip to a messenger pro

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Amy Firmstahl  
704 E. Monroe St.  
Colby, WI 5442

Dear Representative Jukowski:

I think that Colby cheese should become the state cheese because we want the whole state to taste Colby cheese and come to the famous festival Colby Cheese Days where they have games and rides and cheese from Colby. If Colby cheese is made to be the state cheese, there will be a lot more money and a lot more tourism in Colby. My mom works with cheese and the rest of my family wants her to make more money for bills and for food. It will be famous in Colby if Colby cheese is made the state cheese for a long time. There will be a lot more economy for our state. It is a healthy snack or after school snack.

lish for parties. It is one of  
the best kinds of cheese. I hope  
you make the right decision.

Sincerely,  
Amy Furrstahl

Kim Wilner  
315 N. 2nd.  
Colby Wis. 54001

Dear Representative Jakowski:

Fresh Colby Cheese is my favorite. Wisconsin is the dairy state. In July we have a weekend called Colby Cheese days. I wish that everyone could come to Colby Cheese days. Colby has a historical marker to advertise our famous Colby Cheese. Colby Cheese is the only Cheese that my family buys. I hope that Colby Cheese is one of Wisconsin's symbols.

Sincerely,  
Kim Wilner

Nathan Abney  
201 N 3 ST  
Colby WI 54412

Dear Representative Jukowski:

I think Colby cheese should be the state cheese. I think this is a good idea because it might bring more people to the city or Cheese Days. It was invented here. Colby cheese was made here in Colby. Finally, Colby will be famous for something. It might bring tourism. Colby cheese is one of my favorite cheeses. It would help the farming industry and the people who work at the cheese factories. More cheese would be bought. It might be on the state flag or the state seal. I want people to know where Colby is. All of the factories near or in Colby make Colby cheese.

Sincerely,

Nathan Abney  
Colby Elem

Kim Mitz  
N14114 Catlin Ave  
Cardiss, WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think colby cheese should be our state cheese. It will probably bring in more people. People would come and live in our state. We have Colby Cheese Days to remember colby cheese. I think colby cheese is a really good cheese. Colby is the dairy state because we have a lot of dairy farms. We make more cheese to eat. My favorite cheese is Colby cheese. Colby cheese is very popular.

Sincerely,  
Kim Mitz



Amanda Hornick  
209 S. 4th Street  
Colby, WI 54421

Dear Representative Jukowski:

I think Colby cheese should be the state cheese. Colby cheese was made in Wisconsin, not in Europe like most cheeses. Wisconsin is also the dairy state. The dairy industry is a big part of Wisconsin's economy. Colby cheese is one of the best cheeses in the world.

Lots of good things could happen for Colby, Wisconsin. The population will increase. It could help the economy. It could increase tourism. There is a historical marker all about Colby cheese in Colby.

Sincerely,  
Amanda  
Hornick

Dear Representative K. ZUKOWSKI,

Colby Cheese is my favorite

cheese. I think it is good  
for kids. We have Colby Cheese  
Days in July. Wisconsin has a  
lot of dairy farms. Selling lots  
of Colby Cheese will help the  
dairy industry. I think this would  
be helpful to Wisconsin.

Sincerely  
ROSELYN Seibert

Kyle Schilling

208 S<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Str  
Colby WI, 5442

Dear Representative Robert K. Zukowski:

I think Colby Cheese should be a state symbol. This way the farmers would get their fair share of money.

The kind of cheese Colby makes is my favorite, especially when it's fresh! We even celebrate our cheese. Our town calls it Colby Cheese Days. It's a lot of fun there, because they have a lot of fun rides. They also have a lot of food and game stands.

If Colby cheese became a state symbol, the people that worked in the factories would get more money because they would have to work harder. It would also help our economy.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Schilling

Gerard Strebe  
F2281 Cty. Road N.  
Colby, WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think Colby cheese should be the state cheese because... then Colby would be famous and then maybe all the people in Wisconsin could celebrate Colby cheese days

Sincerely,  
Gerard Strebe

Dear Rep. Zukowki:

Kimbroeske  
200 West North St  
Colby WI 54421

I think colby cheese should be a state symbol. Colby cheese was ~~not~~ made in Europe, it was made in Wisconsin.

It was only cheese made in the Wisconsin. It was the only cheese made in the United States. My favorite to eat cheese is in steaks. My whole family love it!

The City of Colby celebrates Colby Cheese Days every year in July. This year it would be July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We would like you to come up to Colby on July 20<sup>th</sup> for the parade.

Sincerely,  
Kimbroeske

Brianna Christopher  
507 N. 2nd St.  
Colby WI 54721

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I Live in the City of Colby, and Colby is the home of Colby Cheese. The original factory is gone, but some Colby Cheese is still made in the area.

Colby is a great City and a great place to live. I'm glad they named a Cheese after Colby, because they are both great.

P.S. My favorite cheese is salami what is your favorite cheese?

Sincerely,  
Brianna Lynn  
Christopher

Rachel Konieczny  
203 W. Dolf apt 102  
Colby, WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I would love to have Colby Cheese as our official state symbol. I would like it because it is one of the most liked cheeses, and it would bring tourism to our town.

Colby Cheese was invented by Joseph Steinwand during the year of 1885. Our historical marker is the first Colby Cheese house.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the famous Colby Cheese Days. We would love to have you as a guest to Colby Cheese Days.

Almost all my classmates would join in in saying that Colby Cheese is the best.

Sincerely,  
Rachel  
Konieczny

Kayce Oestreich  
510 N. 3rd St.  
Colby, W. Va. 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think that having Colby Cheese a state symbol would make Colby stand out. I think more tourists would come.

One way we celebrate Colby cheese is to have Colby Cheese Days.

Since Colby Cheese is one of the many cheeses made in the United States I think it should be a state symbol.

It is named after Colby.

The first home of Colby Cheese was in the factory of Joseph Stenwand. The cheese factory was one mile south and one west of Colby.

Colby is known as "The Home of Colby Cheese."

Sincerely,  
Kayce Oestreich



Melissa Underwood  
H4647 Chestnut R.D.  
Colby WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I have an idea that we should have a state cheese and it should be colby cheese. It should be the official state cheese. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese. My dad makes cheese. He works at Formost Farms U.S.A. I like cheese a lot. We keep it in our house all year round. I think it will attract tourists.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Underwood

Shane  
518 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Dear Representative Zukowski,

Colby, WI 22359

I would love to have colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. If you were to do so, many companies that make colby cheese would sky-rocket. 100 years ago Ambrose Steine wood opened the first cheese factory of colby cheese. There is a historical marker in Colby that tells when colby cheese was invented and by who it was invented. My family loves colby cheese.

Sincerely,

Shane McRae

Shane McRae

Ryan Sebold  
5011 W. + Adam St.  
Colby, WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think Colby cheese should be the state cheese. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese. A lot of people like it too. I like Colby for the cheese. In Green Bay they are making cheese hats. Colby cheese is popular. The cheese building that is near Colby or close to Colby is making Colby cheese.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Sebold

Kyle Frome  
207 S. 3rd St.  
Colby WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I feel colby cheese should be our state cheese because it was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. Colby cheese wasn't made by the Europeans. On March 19 my dad and I went to the historical marker in Colby. Joseph F. Steinward developed colby cheese in 1885. He named it for the township in which his father, Ambrose Steinward Sr. had built northern Clark county's first cheese factory. The town had taken its name from Gardner Colby, whose company built the Wis Central railroad through here. Colby is a mild, soft, moist cheese that became a trade mark of the area. After the turn of the century this area became one of the great cheese producing centers in the nation and colby cheese a favorite in countries around the world. Colby cheese is one of the few cheeses that originates in

the United States. Colby produces  
a lot of cheese because we are  
a dairy state.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Frome

Roger Thieme  
Sandhill Ave, N13604  
Colby, WI. 5442

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think that you should make colby cheese the state symbol because it will have more people eating the cheese. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese and there are a lot of cities eating colby cheese.

The Packers use cheese for cheese hats and the cheese is really good cheese.

Sincerely,  
Roger  
Thieme

Nick Meyer  
404 North 5th Street  
Colby, Wi. 54421

Dear Representative Zerkowski: I think colby cheese should be made the state cheese. It would be good for the town of Colby. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese. Our town has Colby Cheese Days to celebrate about the good cheese. All the people in the state would come to Colby Cheese Days. We would start getting tourism. In the dairy industry the sales would get higher and the cheese makers would make more money. Colby cheese is a big cheese product. I hope you take our thought,

Sincerely,  
Nick Meyer

Fobi Schulz  
505 N 4th St  
Colby, WI 544.

Dear Representative Zukowski:

Colby cheese is one of the best cheeses in the world. Since Wisconsin is a dairy state, I Fobi Schulz, think that Colby cheese should be the state cheese. Colby cheese is very, very, famous. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese. We people that live here in Colby, have three special days a year, and they are called Colby Cheese Days. We use these days in July.

Sincerely,  
Fobi Schulz



andrew ~~mergers~~  
600 west Colby St,  
Colby WI 54421

Dear Representative Robert H. Zukowski:

It would be fun for Colby cheese to be the state cheese. Colby cheese is my favorite cheese because it isn't so strong like other cheeses.

Our little town would be famous for its cheese. It's a good idea because it would help our economy.

It would help the dairy industry because it would draw more attention. Then the dairy industry would get more money.

I would also really like Colby Wisconsin to be famous. So could you please say yes?

It would be our state symbol. Colby Cheese Days is really fun. We celebrate Colby cheese in July. Come to our Colby Cheese Days.

Sincerely,

Andrew ~~Merger~~

Robert Mahl  
2028 W. Washington  
Colby WI, 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think Colby Cheese should stay in Colby's name because Colby is famous for its cheese. Cheese has Nutritional Values and it's healthy for you. Colby Cheese was made in Colby, all of the other cheeses were made in Europe. And it is important for a town to have a city symbol. What would our symbol be if it wasn't cheese? We celebrate by having a weekend called Colby Cheese Days.

P.S. Colby cheese is good and a lot of people like it.

Sincerely,  
Robert Mahl

Greg R. Schultz

W 1656 Cty. Hwy. N  
Colby, Wi. 54421

Dear Representative Jackowski:

I think colby cheese should be made the state cheese of Wisconsin because it was the only cheese invented in Wisconsin. It is important for the dairy industry because it gives more tourism. My whole family loves colby cheese.

Sincerely,  
Greg R. Schultz

Mollie McCarron  
506 North 3rd St  
Colby WI 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I would like Colby Cheese to be the state cheese. All my family members like Colby cheese. My Mom and my Dad makes cheese. My Mom works at Land O' Lakes. My Dad works at Foremost Farms in Washfield.

We have three days a year in July for Colby Cheese Days we are celebrating Colby cheese and why it is important to Colby. It would be great if more people were familiar with this kind of cheese. Then more people will want to buy it and could be important to Wisconsin's economy.

Sincerely,  
Mollie McCarron

Katie Willner  
315 N. 2<sup>ND</sup>. ST.  
Colby, WI 5442  
(715) 223-4897

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I would like colby cheese to be our state cheese. It is the most popular cheese. I think that it would be neat to have or be close to a famous city. Joseph Steinwand, if he was still here, he would feel special because he <sup>invented</sup> the first colby cheese. Ambrose Steinwand, Sr. had built the first cheese company in Clark County.

The colby cheese is <sup>made</sup> the only natural cheese made up in the U.S.A. A lot of the other kinds of cheese was made out side of the U.S.A. Every year in the summer, on the third weekend in July, Colby celebrates Cheese Days. On that weekend there are rides, games, a parade, food, and bingo. One kind of food is cheese curds. A lot of people who don't live in Colby come to Colby just for colby cheese. Another reason for colby cheese. Being our state cheese

is, because our state is the dairyland state.

Sincerely,  
Katie Wilbur

Melissa Morrow  
606 S. Main St.  
Colby, W.D. 54421

Dear Representative Zukowski:

I think it would be a good idea to have colby cheese the cheese of the state because our cheese was made in the United States and not in a different country. Right now I am probably speaking for my friends and me that colby cheese is the most popular cheese in our homes today. We also celebrate Colby Cheese Days for our cheese. Colby Cheese Days last 3 days. At Colby Cheese Days we have a parade and a lot of people in the parade throw out colby cheese. We also have games and rides. I would like to see Colby made famous for the cheese. The Packers made us famous for Cheese Heads. If you made colby cheese the cheese of the state more people would like to live here. I think it would be neat to be famous because we are such a small city. There is a historical marker in Colby about the cheese too. There would be a lot more tourists around here.

Sincerely,

Melissa Morrow

Ben Weix  
113593 Sandhill  
ave.

Colby, Wisc. 544

Dear Representative Zukowski,

I think colby cheese should be a state symbol because it's popular and might attract tourism and make Wisconsin famous. Wisconsin is one of the biggest producers of cheese also. It might make Colby a bigger city too. My favorite cheese is colby cheese. There is also a historical marker in Colby. The dairy industry is a big business from Wisconsin also.

Sincerely,

Ben Weix



RESOLUTION NO. 4-1997

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

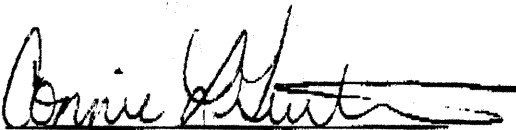
WHEREAS, Colby Cheese was created by Joseph Steinwand in 1885 in his Cheese Factory located southwest of the City of Colby, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Colby Cheese is the only dairy product to be native to Wisconsin; and

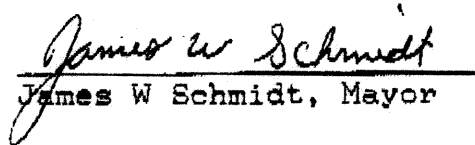
WHEREAS, Mr. Steinwand used the name of the City/Township for his new product;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Common Council of the City of Colby support the recognition of Colby Cheese as the State Cheese for the State of Wisconsin.

ATTEST:



Connie Gurtner, Clerk

  
James W Schmidt, Mayor