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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations

Assembly Bill 160

Relating to: designating Little Bluestem as the Wisconsin state grass.

By Representatives Pettis, Schooff, Balow, Gottlieb and Krusick; cosponsored by Senator Robson, by request of Osceola Fourth Graders, Clinton Elementary Fourth Graders and Elm Dale Fourth Graders.

March 13, 2003 Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations.

January 28, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser, Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Rep. Mark Pettis, 28th Assembly District
- Rep. Dan Schooff, 45th Assembly District
- Richard Kruckenberg, Clinton Elementary School
- Monica Hodge, Clinton Elementary School
- Elizabeth Kopp, Clinton Elementary School
- Jacob Bergman, Clinton Elementary School
- Kim Vollmer, Clinton Elementary School

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

None.

Registrations For

Emilie Nimitz, Clinton Elementary School
Hannah Logterman, Clinton Elementary School
Taylor Brandl, Clinton Elementary School
Paul Cooper, Clinton Elementary School
Andrew Kemmer, Clinton Elementary School
Adrian Robbins, Clinton Elementary School

Carey Nichole Smith, Clinton Elementary School
Chelsea Warner, Clinton Elementary School
Kurt Anderson, Clinton Elementary School
Jeremy McMillan, Clinton Elementary School
Jake Baroni, Clinton Elementary School
Dalton Jackson, Clinton Elementary School
Jake West, Clinton Elementary School
Del Rae Mikkelson, Clinton Elementary School
Jordyn Ciochon, Clinton Elementary School
Justin Sharpe, Clinton Elementary School
Nick Murn, Clinton Elementary School
Jose Hernandez, Clinton Elementary School
Brienne Dammen, Clinton Elementary School

Registrations Against

None.

February 11, 2004

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser, Weber,
Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Musser, seconded by Representative Weber that
Assembly Bill 160 be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser,
Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

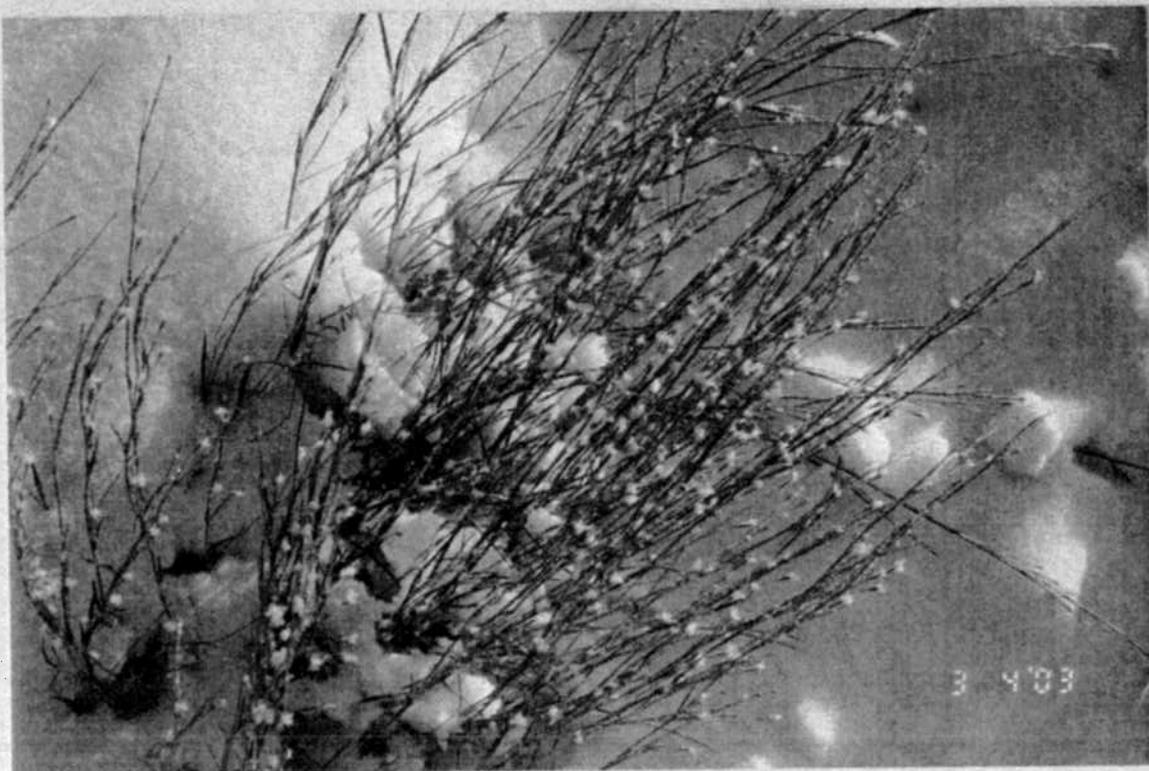
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 0

Lance Burri
Committee Clerk

Mrs. Lowman Vollmer's Class's Top Ten Reasons why Wisconsin should have Little Bluestem as the State Grass:

1. It is a perennial and grows back every year.
2. Animals nest in little bluestem.
3. In the fall it turns a beautiful reddish-orange color that last all winter.
4. It is found in a majority of counties in Wisconsin.
5. It has a great root system that stops erosion and cleans the water.
6. It is native to Wisconsin.
7. It is a tough plant and can survive all kinds of weather.
8. It could help save prairies in Wisconsin.
9. It is an easy name to remember.
10. Other states have a state grass and we want one too!



FEB 09 2004

February 5, 2004

Dear Mr. Lasee,

Thank you for letting us
come and testify. We hope
you vote yes. Please send
it to the assembly and senate. We
want bill AB 160-our state grass
I liked the rotunda the best.
Thank you for letting us come.

Sincerely,
Carey Smith and
Mrs. Lowman
Vollmer's Class

FEB 9 2004

February 5, 2004

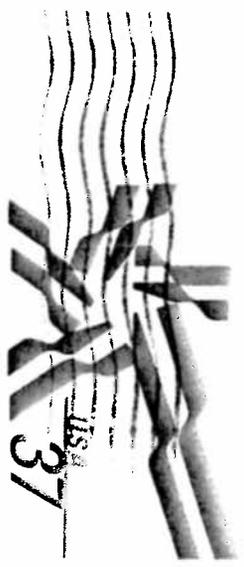
Dear Mr. Lally,

Thank you for letting us testify on bill
AB 160. Next time you vote say yes, please.
I think it should pass to a law. Little
bluestem grows back every year - that means its
a perennial.

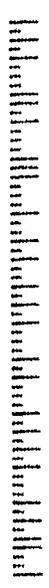
Sincerely,
Paul Cooper and
Mr. Lowman Vollmer's Class

CLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
P. O. Box 70
Clinton, WI 53525

Frank G. Lasee
Room 105 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8492
Madison, WI 53708

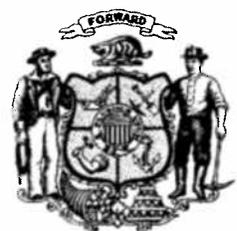


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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Dear Committee Members,

We are a few fourth grade students from Osceola Intermediate School in Osceola Wisconsin. As fourth graders we would like to share our thoughts on the Little Bluestem Bill that is coming before your committee. We were really impressed that the bill for the Little Blue Stem made it into Assembly Committee. New Jersey made the Blueberry their state fruit in symbol. So we thought we could make the Little Blue Stem our state grass. There are already 17 states with state grasses so we thought we wouldn't want to be the one of 33 states to not have a state grass. So we would like to have the Little Blue Stem to be our state grass. We will be waiting to hear the news about your support of the Little Bluestem Bill.

Thanks for your help with this,

Lucas Felling, Austin Memmer, Lauren Nelson, and Laura Neumann!

Dear Committee Members,

Our class really wants the Little Bluestem Bill to become a law. Last year the class started it. Did you know that New Jersey just adopted the blueberry as a new state symbol? If New Jersey has the blueberry for their state symbol; we should have the Little Bluestem for a Wisconsin State Grass. It is only fair.

Last year the class started to write letters to accomplish just that. If this gets through the committee. The kids would be really proud. The grass is wild, and it won't have to have good soil, and it grows in March. It grows about anywhere. That is why we think it is the perfect choice for our state grass symbol. We hope you will agree with us.

Sincerely,

Sam Sizer, Anna Smith, Andy Peterson, Lyssa

Christensen, and Kaitlyn Webb

From the Osceola 4th grade

Dear Committee Members,

We would like the little Bluestem to be our state grass because only 17 states have a state grass. The native plants don't need to be fertilized and they are drought resistant. Having this as a symbol would hopefully encourage people to look at prairies in a different way. Which would make our land look even better, and animals and insects will like them too. There is only 1% of our prairie left in Wisconsin.

Everything is getting plowed up and getting polluted. New Jersey just got a state berry as their state fruit, why can't we get a state grass; the Little Bluestem would be great! It doesn't need good dirt to grow. It is a high seed producer and needs a lot of sunlight. Wisconsin summers would be perfect. We might even get some of our prairie back; because of the sunlight it needs and open space it might spread because of its high seed production.

The fourth graders of our school last year helped start the process, and were going to finish their DREAM! Will you join us?

Waiting for our Dream to happen,

Cody Brunclik, Morgan Young, Braden Bartley, Chase Collins, KC Chamberlin

Osceola fourth graders

Dear Committee Members,

We feel that the Little Bluestem bill should become a law. We feel this way because prairies are a natural resource. If we celebrate this with a symbol we convince people to take care and protect it. If you need an example look at the bald Eagle and the trouble they have had. Being a national symbol helped to keep them safe. We hope for the same with the Wisconsin prairie.

There are only 17 other states have a state grass symbol. The Little Bluestem prairie grass is a species native to Wisconsin. There is only 1% of prairie left in Wisconsin. Please can you help us in our cause? Please vote yes for the Little Bluestem prairie grass.

Thank you from Osceola Intermediate School,

Amber Studie, Clarissa Cleven, Becky Rutledge, & Jacob Etter