



**JILL BILLINGS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

March 4, 2020

Chairman Swearingen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 634, which would designate the Spring Peeper as the state amphibian and require the Wisconsin Blue Book to include information about this designation.

I drafted and introduced this legislation in partnership with the fourth grade students at Summit Environmental Elementary School in La Crosse. Summit Elementary is an environmental-based school, and aptly located next to Frog Pond. The students researched the Spring Peeper and wrote my office briefing memos on why the Spring Peeper should be named the state amphibian. The students are here today to testify on behalf of the legislation and I'll let them provide you the reasons why this bill should be passed and signed into law.

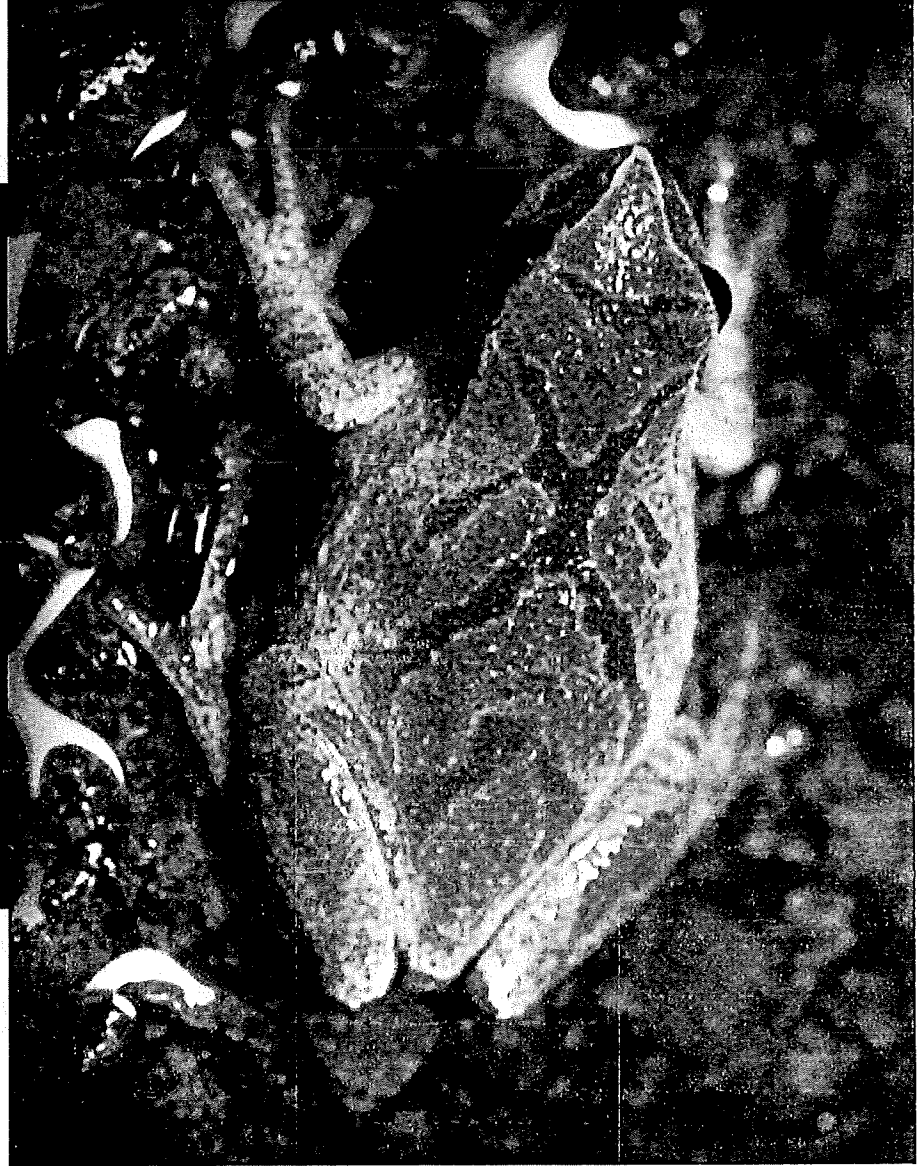
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a webpage dedicated to the Spring Peeper. I have this webpage on the screen, so you can see a photo of the Spring Peeper and I'll play a brief video so you can hear the Spring Peeper's distinguishable sound.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on this Assembly Bill 634. It has been a great, firsthand civic engagement lesson for the students at Summit Elementary, and I appreciate your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Billings". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jill Billings  
State Representative  
95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



## Student Testimony for the Spring Peeper Bill: March 4, 2020

### Peyton

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the committee. We are 4th graders from Summit Environmental School in La Crosse, Wisconsin. We are here today sharing why we think the spring peeper should be designated as our state amphibian. Our classes researched the spring peeper and found many reasons why it would be a good choice to represent our state.

### Ian

Spring peepers are a very unique frog. They are small, about the size of a paperclip. Spring peepers have an interesting X design on their back. Spring peepers make an unusual sound while mating and it is a sign that spring is here.

### Julia

Spring peepers are very common and widespread around our state. They are found in all 72 counties in Wisconsin. We even have them in the frog pond of our school forest. Kids all around the state could go outside and observe them.

### Leo

In some areas of Wisconsin the habitat of the spring peeper is being destroyed due to the construction of homes and buildings. If the spring peeper is designated as a state amphibian, it would create awareness about how important it is to protect it.

### Estelle

A fun fact that we learned about the spring peeper is that it hibernates behind the bark of trees and under leaves during the winter, which is not typical of most frogs. Spring peepers survive the harsh, cold Wisconsin winters, because their blood has special sugars that act like an antifreeze to keep them alive.

### Emilyn

As you can see, there are many reasons why the spring peeper would be a great choice to represent Wisconsin as our state amphibian. We would like to thank Representative Billings for including us in this project and teaching us about the legislative process. We have learned a lot about how a bill could become a law. Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the committee. We hope you will consider making the spring peeper our state amphibian.