

Testimony on House Bill 2563
To the
Senate Agriculture Committee
By Terry Koch, Mayor of Clyde, Kansas

March 13, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2563.

I am Terry Koch, the mayor of Clyde, Kansas and we are fully supportive of Wellington being designated the Official State Wheat Festival.

Our city of Clyde has been holding the Clyde Watermelon Festival annually since 1879. It is our community's largest event and is well attended by people in the region. Additionally, this two day celebration has become a "homecoming" with a large number of former residents returning for the weekend.

The Festival centers around watermelons with the winner of the largest watermelon contest being featured in the parade on Saturday. Of course, watermelon is served to the public and takes a place of prominence in all of the weekend's events.

The Clyde Watermelon Festival has become a regional attraction. Therefore, we would respectfully ask that you would amend HB 2563 to designate the City of Clyde as the Official State Watermelon Festival.

Thank you and I would try to answer any questions you may have.