

Testimony on HB 2479

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill. My name is Spencer Tomb. I am a retired biology professor from Manhattan, Kansas. I have followed wildlife and conservation issues in the Legislature for about 30 years. I think this bill is not needed and would have some unintended consequences. There are current protections of reptiles including the Ornate Box Turtle, and they are working. This species appears to be doing well in its native range in Kansas. There are problems that come with adding the words *prohibit capture and possession* of the species. Dead box turtles have uses in the culture of Native Americans. The shells of dead turtles are used as bowls and to make musical instruments.



Four Eastern box turtle rattles tied to leather legging with leather string with stone flakes inside of the shells. Image credit: Andrew Gillreath-Brown / McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Tennessee. Box turtle shells are also used to make slate turkey calls.



A home-made turtle shell slate call photos by A S Tomb

Wild animals should be left in the wild. They should be protected from commercial use of live animals. This bill is not needed. Thank you, Spencer Tomb 5321 Thompson Road Manhattan KS, 66503 astomb@ksu.edu Cell 785 410 2817