



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1651		DATE: 1/28/2026	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tourism			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID WYMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-421-0373	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF DEXTER		TITLE: CITY ADMINISTRATOR	
ADDRESS: 301 E STODDARD			
CITY: DEXTER		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63841
EMAIL: david.wyman@cityofdexter.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 4:09 PM	
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Testimony for HB 1651

Good morning, my name is David Wyman, City Administrator, and also with me is Lauren Hill, Tourism Specialist. We represent the City of Dexter and wish to testify this morning in favor of the passage of HB 1651.

The City of Dexter has long history of excellent BBQ restaurants that have stood the test of time. These establishments have a shared identity with the community in which they are located, and we would like to formalize that identity with the passage of HB 1651, which would refer to Dexter, MO as the Rib City of Missouri.

As you may have noticed, I really enjoy eating, and I have sampled BBQ all across the great state of Missouri. I've eaten at Pappy's Smokehouse and SugarFire BBQ in St. Louis, I've eaten at Jack Stack, Oklahoma Joe's (or just Joe's now), Arthur Bryant's, and Gates BBQ in Kansas City.....I've even eaten at Missouri Hick in Cuba, City Butcher in Springfield, and Strawberry's in the small town of Holcomb. I have even completed the coursework to be a certified KCBS BBQ judge....and I can promise you that all of these places have great BBQ, and we would not want to slight any of these great Missouri restaurants.

My father loved the St Louis Cardinals and he loved their announcer, Jack Buck. I can remember as a kid, he would often turn on the TV to watch the Cardinals, but he would turn the volume down on the TV and listen to Jack Buck on the radio. Jack Buck, in his gravelly voice would call each play in expert and memorable fashion. When the action was slow, he would occasionally talk about eating spareribs at the Hickory Log in Dexter, MO and I remember how proud that made me feel. I worked for MoDOT before coming to work for the City of Dexter. As you all probably know, MoDOT folks always know the best places to eat all over the state. I remember when the Jeff City employees found out where I was from, they would all talk about coming down to the Bootheel and eating ribs in Dexter. We even have a very popular high school sports tournament that hosts high school boys and girls basketball and volleyball and they are known as the Rib City Shootouts.....all because Dexter is known for its ribs.

Effective marketing and tourism is difficult in the Bootheel of Missouri. We have an arch, but it is over Hwy 61 south of Cardwell, and I am guessing most of you have never heard of it. Our version of Crown Center is when the right guy or gal is running the drive through window at Burger King. We do not have the Cardinals or the Royals. Our version of a Bass Pro Shop is the sporting goods section at Wal-

Mart. But we do have good people and we have good barbeque.

We could go on and on, but here is the summary. We would like to be able to market our town, celebrate our town, and potentially increase tourism in our town. We feel that one of the ways we can do that effectively is by being known as the Rib City of Missouri.

We would love to answer any questions you may have for us.....



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:35 PM

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There are Great Ribs Joints all over OUR Great State! This is very unfair Legislation in the sprite of fun and laughs with the Committee-Members.