

Iowa's State Rock - The Geode

The idea to designate the geode as Iowa's State rock is thought to have come from a visitor from South Dakota, who was speaking in Des Moines. This idea gained support by Iowan's who lived in the Southeastern part of the state, where geodes are still commonly found. Nine state representatives from SE Iowa led the drafting of House Resolution No. 14, which was introduced to the House on February 3, 1967. The resolution passed the House with a vote of 93 to 26, but it was met with some disdain in the Senate. The Senate felt that it was a trivial matter, and a waste of time. Max Mills, a Republican from Marshalltown, went so far as to suggest the adoption of a state nut, and implied that supporters for the resolution would be fitting candidates. During the proceedings, Senators were able to view several magnificent Iowa geode specimens. The resolution passed with a vote of 35 to 18 in the Senate.

Resolution No. 14

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Iowa geode as the official state rock for the state of Iowa.

WHEREAS, it is common practice for states to adopt specific flowers, birds, and trees as the official state flowers, state birds, and state trees, and

WHEREAS, it is also the practice among a number of states to adopt certain rocks as the official state rock of the state, and

WHEREAS, the state of Iowa does not at the present time have a rock as the official rock of the state, and

WHEREAS, Iowa has natural deposits of one of the rarest and most beautiful rocks in the example of the Iowa geode, and

WHEREAS, the Iowa geode is a much sought after brightly colored rock of a crystal formation and one of the finest geodes located in the nation, and

WHEREAS, Iowa is one of the few places where the geode formations are plentiful and found in some abundance, and

WHEREAS, a survey conducted through the use of questionnaires mailed to rock collectors in the state has indicated that the Iowa geode is the first choice for the official state rock of Iowa: Now
THEREFORE

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 SECTION 1. The Iowa geode is hereby designated and shall here-
2 after be officially known as the state rock of Iowa.

1 Sec. 2. The curator of the department of history and archives
2 is hereby directed to obtain samples of the Iowa geode adequate to
3 represent a fair sampling of the rock as found in this state and
4 display the samplings in an appropriate place in the state historical
5 library.

1 Sec. 3. The editor of the Iowa Official Register is hereby directed
2 to include an appropriate picture with an appropriate commentary
3 of the Iowa geode in the Iowa Official Register along with pictures
4 of the state flower, state bird, and the state tree.

Bibliography

Garvin, Paul. 1998. *Iowa's Minerals: their occurrence, origins, industries and lore*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.