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Pennsylvania's mineralogical heritage is renowned. National Geographic says that Pennsylvania's minerals, coal, and oil fueled industry in the United States. It is also said that without our Commonwealth's resources we could not have won the Revolutionary War or the North's victory in the Civil War. While our iron, zinc, nickel, and other metal resources are more widely known, Celestine has a unique position having been discovered and identified in Pennsylvania first. As you have already heard thirty-eight U.S. States have state minerals. It is time for a state that played such a prominent role in fueling our country to have its own. Pennsylvania already has Trilobite as the State Fossil, but no mineral or rock.

The rock and mineral hobby contributes in a very positive way to two important areas for our state. Education and tourism. Representatives from rock and mineral clubs throughout Pennsylvania donate time and talent to public schools, private schools, and senior centers. I personally visit many public schools and senior facilities every year. Our local club has just produced a poster featuring rocks, minerals, and fossils of Pennsylvania, paying for five-thousand copies for free distribution to a predominantly youth audience. Celestine is featured on the poster. Our state geologic survey considered producing a poster like it sometime back. We rockhounds were able to provide the poster without tax dollars being used. These posters have been made available to the survey for distribution as well. Many state geologists have always been enthusiastic about Celestine as a State Mineral, if only off the record.

Rock clubs in Pennsylvania are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies. This organization represents approximately ten-thousand hobbyists in many eastern states. Just a few weeks back the organization held its annual convention here in Harrisburg. In 2014 it will be held near Philadelphia. This brings tourism to our state. Meckley's Quarry in Mandata is probably the best known Celestine site in North America. Meckley's has hosted many annual open house weekends attracting folks from all over North America, again bringing revenue to businesses as well as taxes.

I was honored to testify for The Honorable Bruce Smith when Celestine was presented as the state mineral back in 2002, in an effort led by Mary Ann Charles and her students from Wellsville. It was an exercise in how government works. The students knew at the outset that the bill may never see the light of day and that was how government worked. The bill failed to come out of committee, but they learned. It is my hope that this time around the young man spearheading this charge and thousands of rock hounds in our state will realize their dream.

One final note; it is my understanding that there is currently a bill in the Pennsylvania Senate calling for coal to be our state rock. This would be a great opportunity to combine the two efforts. Coal should be our state rock and it is time



for lawmakers to stand up for one of our most important industries.... coal. A rock is a combination of more than one mineral. Coal is just that, while Celestine is o mineral.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very respectfully submitted.

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