

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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From: Senator Kathy Bernier
To: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology & Consumer Protection
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 519
Relating to: designating Colby as the state cheese
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Thank you Chairman Stroebel for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 519, designating Colby Cheese as Wisconsin's state cheese. Before I begin, I'd like to recognize the Fourth Graders from Colby, Wisconsin who are watching live on Wisconsin Eye right now. These students authored the letters that are being distributed to you, urging your support for this bill that honors the big contribution made by this small Wisconsin town.

I'd also like to recognize the high school students here with us today, who traveled a long way to share with the committee through song – that to us, Colby is more than cheese – it's a symbol of how one small person from one small place can change things - even the course of a state.

Wisconsin does cheese better than anybody else and Colby Cheese is the Wisconsin original that helped transform our state into America's Dairyland. Nearly 150 years ago, long before Wisconsin became famous for dairy, Colby Cheese was a farm family recipe dreamed up right here in Colby, Wisconsin. This amazing cheese quickly grew into a regional favorite and, propelled by its unique, mild taste and creamy flavor, went on to become one of the most popular and best-selling cheeses in America. In fact, although 60 Wisconsin cheesemakers produce 21% of the nation's Colby Cheese, this homegrown Wisconsin original has become so popular that cheesemakers across the country are required to produce the other 79% to meet the demand.

Colby cheese is truly an all-American, Wisconsin original and its prominence across the country and around the world is something we can all be proud of. I ask you to please vote for Senate Bill 519 and join me in honoring Colby cheese as a cornerstone of America's Dairyland.



BOB KULP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 69TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

TO: Senate Committee on Gov't Operations, Technology & Consumer Protection
FROM: Representative Bob Kulp Testimony in Favor of SB 519
RE: Support For Senate Bill 519 / Designating Colby As The State Cheese
DATE: January 29, 2020

Thank you Chairman Stroebel and committee members for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 519 ("SB 519"). I appreciate having the opportunity to express my support for SB 519 which would designate Colby as the state cheese.

2017 Wisconsin Act 8 established cheese as our state's dairy product. Wisconsin is the number 1 cheese-producing state in the United States, making 26% of our country's cheese. According to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, in 2014 Wisconsin cheesemakers used about 90% of Wisconsin's milk supply to produce 2.9 billion pounds of cheese each year.

Colby cheese was developed in 1885 by Joseph Steinward of Colby WI. The cheese is named for the village that it originated which is located in the 69th Assembly District that I represent. Colby cheese has similarities and differences with cheddar cheese. While the cheese has a similar taste and color to cheddar, it does not go through the normal cheddaring process. Washing the curd and replacing whey with water in the cooking process allows the finished cheese to be more soft, moist and more likely to melt than normal cheddar cheese.

Wisconsin is known for its cheese globally and it plays a significant factor for our economy, cultural, and state identity. Of all cheeses, it is Colby cheese that helped transform Wisconsin into America's Dairyland. Colby cheese is so popular that it has inspired cheese makers across the country to manufacture 79 percent of all sold Colby cheese to meet popular demand. Colby cheese is a unique Wisconsin original and is deserving of special recognition. I recommend the members of this committee vote in favor of adapting Colby cheese as Wisconsin's official cheese.

Thank you again for scheduling the public hearing today on SB 519, and thank you for your time and consideration.

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 69TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

***“Colby Cheese” from the original production “Coming Home, Coming Home to Colby”
Performed by Colby High School’s Colby Choir Coalition***

“Let me tell you about this city we call Colby, population 1852, plus a few!
We’ve got farmers, country breeze, on north highway 13, and more than just a county we’re in two.”
It’s a place where people always greet each other, neighbors, family, friends, and in between
We’ve got show choir and stage lights, football Friday nights.
But there’s one thing we hold tried and true, ‘cheese!’
A long time ago, more than a hundred ‘years!’
A man built a factory for cheese
In 1885 his son would tow the line, and make the US native recipe
Colby was the name of the creation, a process that was different than the rest.
A mile west and south, you put it in your mouth, a brand new kind of cheese he put to test
Colby, Colby cheese, no matter how you slice it you’ll be pleased
You can cut it you can curd it, you can even melt and slurp it
And maybe you can save a chunk for me
Colby, Colby cheese, giving thanks to cows on bended knee
It starts out just like cheddar, but then we make it better
Thank to Joe Steinwand hail to thee
First you warm the milk
 “*And add the rennet*”
Then you cut the mixture
 “*Into squares*”
Heating up the curd
 “*The whey is gone for good*”
Wash and cool the piece
 “*In cold water*”
Slate and mix the curd
 “*And press it after*”
then it sits a month
 “*Or two or three*”
“Now the finished product gets packed sold and bought up and we eat it often at events
Like ‘Cheese Days!’”
Colby, Colby cheese, no matter how you slice it you’ll be pleased
You can cut it you can curd it, you can even melt and slurp it
And maybe you can save a chunk for me
Colby, Colby cheese, giving thanks to cows on bended knee
It starts out just like cheddar, but then we make it better
Thank to Joe Steinwand hail to thee, hail to thee
So now you’ve heard about the city we call Colby
And our pride and joy the Colby cheese
Come again now don’t be shy taste the cheese come on now try
And find out why oh why
We love cheese, Colby cheese, we love cheese, ‘Colby cheese’

Testimony of Matthew Oehmichen

Community leader, media personality, business leader, agriculturalist

Of Colby, Wisconsin

On The Issue of Making Colby Cheese

The Official State Cheese of Wisconsin

Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

Room 330SW, State Capitol

Public Hearing concerning Bill SB519

Good day to you all.

As I begin, I want to thank you all for taking the time to hear public testimony on SB519, and to take this potentially out of Committee and on to the next level.

My name is Matthew Oehmichen, of Colby Wisconsin. Bill SB519 is legislation to designate Colby the official state cheese of our state. But as it confused me at the Assembly public hearing, how is this not already so? How's Colby cheese not already the state cheese? This isn't right, and I am here to tell you why we need to get this settled.

When I visited your offices back in November, some interesting comments and questions were posed to me, that have a lot of relevance to why we need to make Colby cheese a state symbol:

First, "why Colby? We make other cheeses." Wisconsin is known as America's Dairyland, and for good reason- our number-one output of all dairy products is cheese. Furthermore, our state is the nation's top producer of cheese, not just currently, but since 1910. Our cheese is world class. No one makes it better than Wisconsin. That's probably why the nation calls us cheese-heads, right? Colby is Wisconsin's only native cheese: that's right, it's our own original recipe, that was created in the center of Clark and Marathon County, which touts the largest number of dairy farms and dairy cows than anywhere else in the state. All the other cheeses we produce so well, and so much of, were someone else's idea.

The cheese is soft, moist, and flavorful. And that is what made Colby cheese so popular. After its creation, Wisconsin soared in cheese production, and never looked back. Colby changed the cheese game.

Secondly, "we have too many state symbols." Symbolism connects us to traditions, to people, industries, and values. It matters. Ask any business owner and anyone in marketing. National average of state symbols is 35, we only have 30. Massachusetts has 57, and boasts the highest quality of life than any other state. It doesn't appear that all of those symbols are slowing them down.

No one has a state cheese, we would be the first. And who cares if we are the only ones with a state cheese? We have never been one to follow, but instead move forward. And not only that, it would be one that no one could ever, ever take away from us, because they can never claim Colby as their own. This is an opportunity to have an icon, a symbol that no other state will ever have. If symbolism doesn't

matter, than why have these red granite columns or bronzed badgers in this beautiful building, and not have them replaced with dry wall and cubicles?

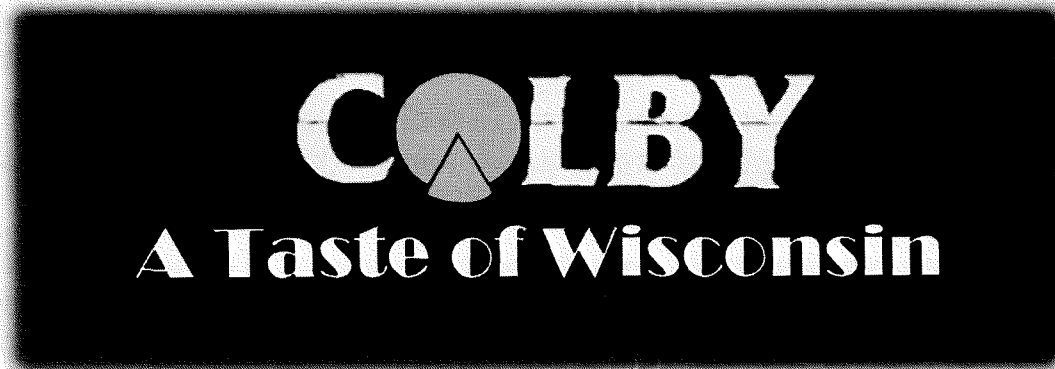
Lastly, 'This wouldn't benefit anyone'. This could not be more far from the truth. This is for our dairy farmers, our cheese makers, our Dairyland brand. Imagine our marketing power if we had an iconic symbol that didn't need further explanation or reinvention; for we are so great at what we do that we have our own official, homegrown, cheese. This isn't just about your individual district's constituents, this is about the whole state. It will recognize our agrarian heritage, and the communities it supports. Times have been tough for farmers; having a product icon is a nod to their excellence. Senators, one of your offices told me "your cheese won't save the industry". On its own, maybe not, but tell me, but how does it exactly hurt the industry?

Sure, things may appear to be moving' and shaking' in big cities, like here in Madison, Milwaukee, Kenosha, but the heart-beat of Wisconsin comes from its rural communities and small hometowns, like mine. Colby is a reflection of our state's sons and daughters who take pride in their work, are proud where they are from, and who dare to dream bigger than their town's borders. That deserves to be recognized, and celebrated.

Colby cheese is more than just cheese, it is a representation of all that is best about being a Wisconsinite. The cheese came from a small community, just like those that dot the state's landscape, from border to border That's what this is all about. With this bill you are building an identity, solidifying our culture and heritage of being America's Dairyland, and recognizing those who move *Forward*, like our state motto. This is about having pride in our state of Wisconsin. Having state pride develops great citizens, leaders, and businesses. People can be proud of this great state that shaped who they are.

Please take action and declare Colby cheese as an official state symbol that is 100% authentic Wisconsin- for our farmers, leaders, communities, and future generations.

Thank you so much for taking the time to hear my testimony, God bless Wisconsin, and I will be happy to take any questions at this time.



Connie Gurtner

City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Colby

I have been the Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Colby for 25 years and am grateful for the opportunity to speak today in favor of Colby Cheese as a Wisconsin state symbol.

Colby is small – approximately 1,828 people in our city. It amazes me how many tourists come to our little city hall looking for the history of the original Colby Cheese. We have a historical marker in our park that says it all. Joseph F. Steinwand invented Colby cheese in 1885. He named the cheese after Colby, Wisconsin – where his father Ambrose Steinwand Sr. had built the first cheese factory in Clark County in 1882. This cheese factory was a simple, small wooden building that produced around 125 pounds of cheese each day. Joseph began helping his father in the cheese factory when he was 16 years old, learning how to make cheese. His father sent him to a cheese-making course and upon returning, Joseph began his cheese experiments in the factory. Small, simple changes led to a milder, softer cheese than cheddar and Colby cheese was born!

We celebrate our heritage in Colby each year with a three day festival called Colby Cheese Days that offers an endless supply of free cheese for festival goers. This July, Colby will mark 55 years celebrating this event and it would be exciting to be able to announce that Colby Cheese has been selected Colby Cheese as a state symbol. During the centennial of Colby Cheese the governor of Wisconsin had proclaimed Colby cheese, “Wisconsin’s Own Colby Cheese,” as the only major natural cheese process native to America.

I think a state symbol should be original to our state and Colby Cheese is just that – it originated right here in Wisconsin!

Colby Cheese 2019 Assembly Bill 572

Beau Sweitzer

University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire

November 6th, 2019

As you know, Wisconsin already has many state symbols such as milk as the State Beverage, the badger as the State Animal, muskellunge as the State Fish and Robin as the State Bird. These state symbols indicate a sense of culture, and pride for all Wisconsinites. Similar to the aforementioned items, cheese is a large part of Wisconsin culture. After all, Wisconsin is the nation's leader in cheese production supplying approximately 3.42 billion pounds in 2017[1]. The significance of cheese in Wisconsin is recognized nationwide as many refer to Wisconsinites as "cheeseheads" (a reference to supporters of the great Green Bay Packers). So if the nation recognizes this significance, we (as Wisconsinites) should also be sure to acknowledge the role of a specialty cheese in

Colby cheese provides much to Wisconsin that can be seen by citizens of the state. Colby was invented in Wisconsin in 1885 by Joseph F. Steinwand. Wisconsin produces approximately 21% of the nation's Colby cheese. Colby cheese was named after the city, Colby in the state of Wisconsin. Colby cheese is special to Wisconsin because it was invented here. Wisconsinites are very loyal to our home state and Colby being recognized as the State Cheese of Wisconsin would allow Wisconsinites to feel the sense of culture that other State Symbols provide.

Colby is made by a number of different companies in Wisconsin^[2], there are currently 36 different companies that produce Colby cheese. Recognizing Colby as the State Cheese would likely increase sales for these companies, and possibly encourage others to enter the market. This is especially important as family farms in Wisconsin struggle to compete with factory farms. The increased sales resulting from nominating Colby as Wisconsin's State Cheese may help increase demand for products needed to produce the cheese.

[1] "Top U.S. States Cheese Production 2017." *Statista*,
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/195764/top-10-us-states-for-cheese-production-2008/>.

[2] Staff, Wisconsin Cheese. "Our Makers." *Wisconsin Cheese*, 10 Sept. 2019,
<https://www.wisconsincheese.com/our-cheese/our-makers?cheese=15>.

Testimony in favor of 2019 Senate Bill 519

January 29, 2020

Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

Chairman Stroebel and Members:

My name is Ann Luckey. My great-grandfather, Joseph Steinwand, invented Colby Cheese in Colby, Wisconsin, in 1885. My mother Betty, who passed away last fall, was Joseph's oldest granddaughter.

It's hard to put into words what Colby Cheese means to me. As a family we'd make regular trips to Colby, my mother's hometown. Seeing the historical marker, and pictures of it, did not make much of an impact on me as a young girl. Now, however, when I realize the significance of that, I am overwhelmed. Our family is a part of the history of Wisconsin. Simply put, "America's Dairyland" would not be "America's Dairyland" as we know it were it not for Joseph Steinwand and his Colby Cheese.

Grandpa and Grandma Steinwand, Joseph's son and daughter-in-law, were humble people and never put on airs. The Steinwands were pillars of the Colby community, known for their kindness and congeniality. However, we have my mom to thank for putting in all the effort and time into recording the history of the family. We are lucky, too, that my brother Joe has recorded many of these memories in with mom's voice. Mom always looked forward to getting cheese whenever someone came back home from Colby, even at the ripe old age of 99!

My brother Steve has a cabin in Medford and his wife Tami always remarked how our regular trips up there really comes full circle for our family. I see all the towns that we heard about when we were younger. My brother Dave and his wife make the drive to go to Colby Cheese Days when they can, they got engaged in Colby, they take care of the graves at the cemetery. And, driving up there, it's breathtaking to realize that whenever anyone in the world eats Colby cheese they are consuming a product that a simple, humble, hard-working Wisconsinite created. We should lay claim to this fact as soon as possible. What a boost of pride that will give everyone in Colby! They, and its product, represent the character of the Midwest.

I remember visiting my son in Madison and going to the Farmer's Market on Saturday, and stopping by the booth for Hook's Cheese in Mineral Point. There I talked with Julie Hook who was, and still is, the *only* woman to win the World Cheese Championship. She won that award in 1982, for their Colby.

The following year, 1983, was proclaimed by Governor Dreyfus to be "Colby Cheese Centennial Year." He recognized then, as many recognize now, that Colby cheese has affected our state's proud status as cheesemakers in a way no other single thing has done.

I take pride in my family's history, but I know this is not just about my family. It's not even about the cheese. It's the recognition of a hardworking farmer, a Wisconsinite through-and-through, who created a good product and it has since become a national symbol of good food – something we can all take pride in.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Ann Luckey
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Dear Legislator,

My name is Nicole and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. Colby cheese looks like Cheddar cheese, but Colby cheese has more cream and has more of a milder flavor. Babies will love Colby cheese. Everyone will love Colby cheese because it is good to eat! I hope you can make Colby cheese the state cheese. Thank you for your time!

11-4-19

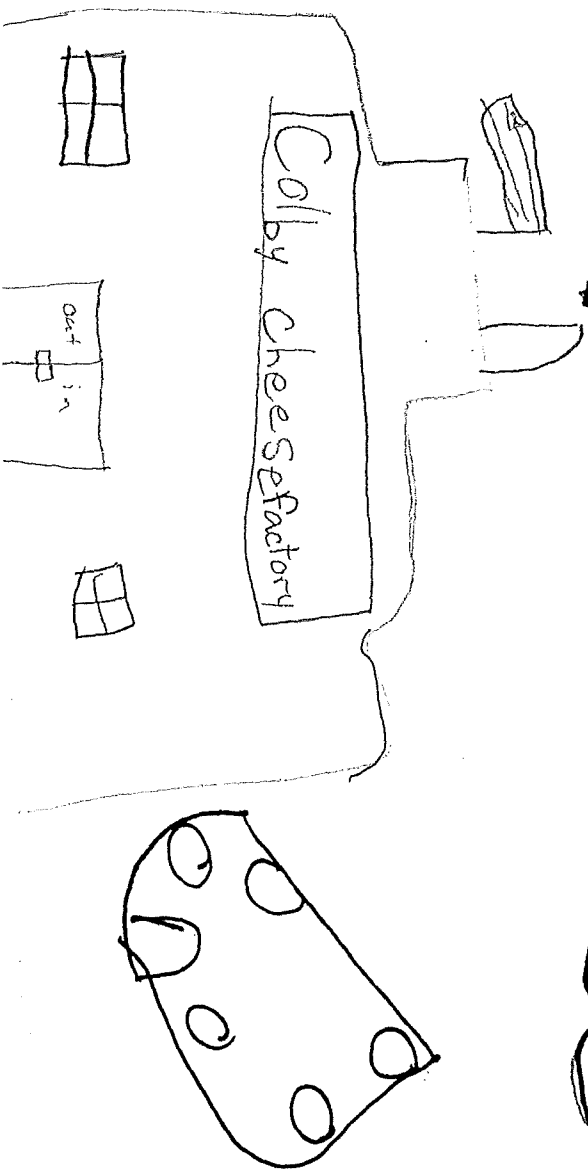
Nicole

Sincerely,

Wisconsin
Yum!
Colby
Cheese!

Colby Cheese Started in a Small town in Wisconsin with world wide Recognition. A Wisconsin original cheese. The first Colby cheese was made in 1874 in Colby, Wisconsin,

Colby Cheese



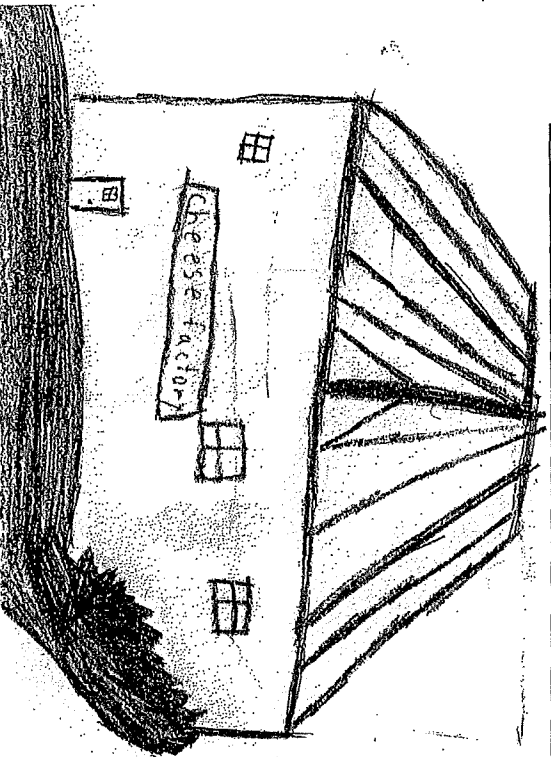
11-4-19

Dear Legislators,

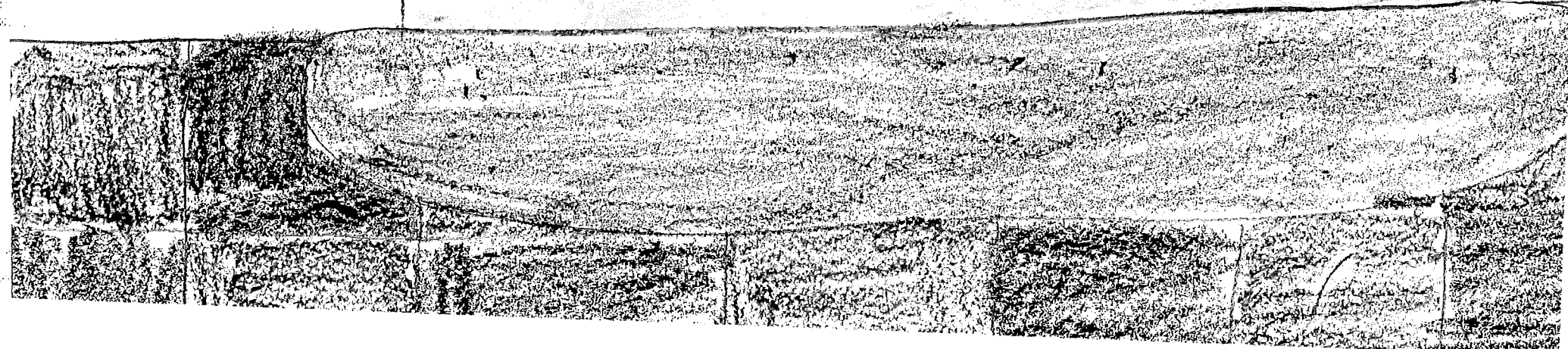
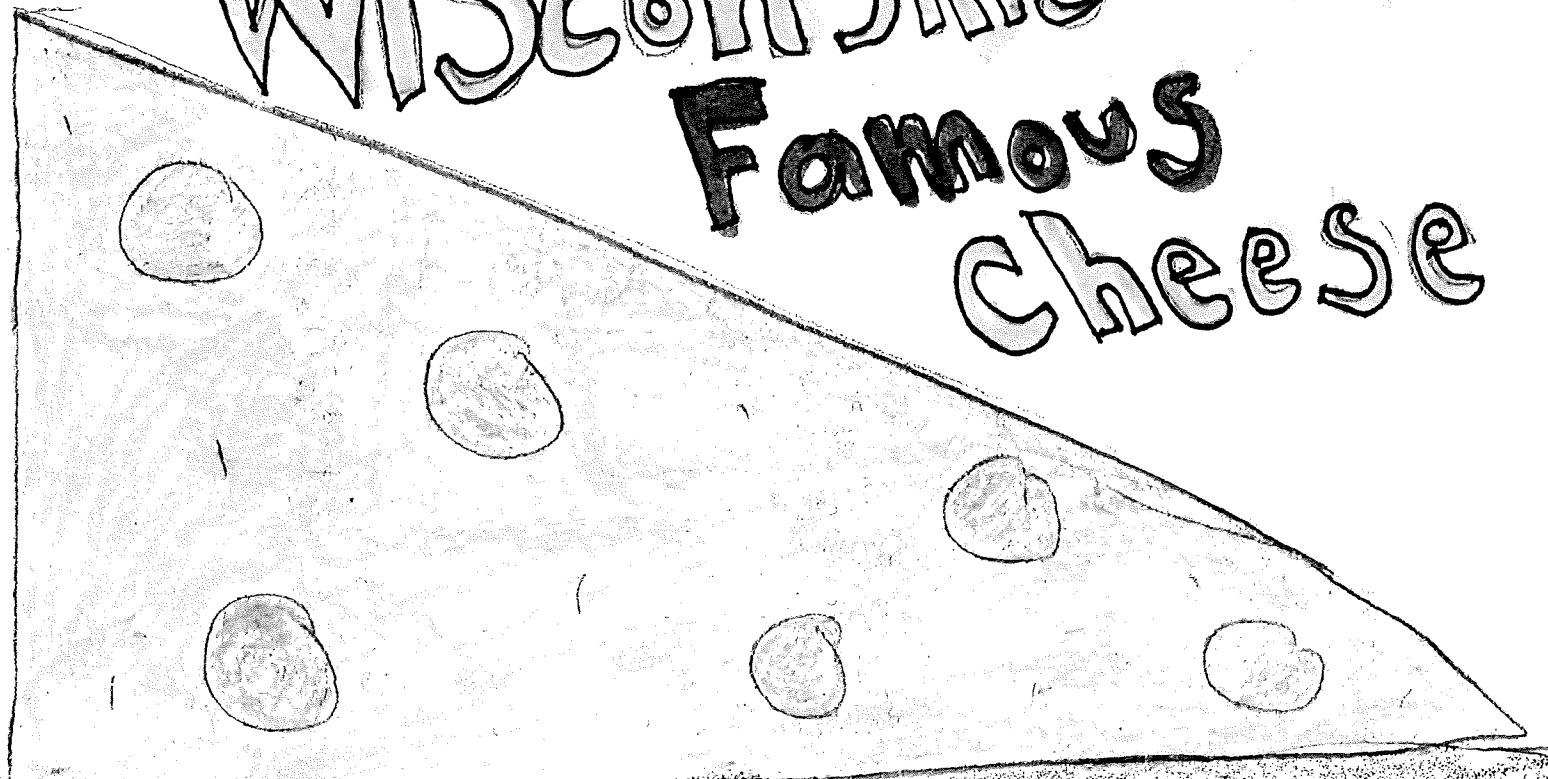
My name is Junex and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby Cheese was made in 1885 by Joseph F. Steinwand. He named the cheese after Colby, WI. The cheese factory was a small wooden building that produced around 125 pounds of cheese each day. Colby is a Wisconsin original cheese. Please approve the bill. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Junex Steiner



Colby ~ Home of Wisconsin
Wisconsin's
Famous
Cheese



11-4-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Carlos and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle school in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese was made or invented in Colby, Wisconsin. It is now eaten all over the world, and Wisconsin farmers have fans that even wear Colby cheese hats. If Wisconsin was a county, it would rank 4th in the world in cheese production. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carlos

Colby
Cheese

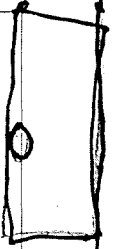
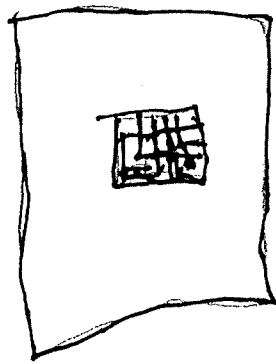


colby cheese factory

I'm the best.

the best cheese in the whole world

Wi



My pleas pick me in your favor it's cheese white.

colby cheese colby cheese

Little Pieces of Cheese

11-4-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Isabelle and I am in fourth grade at Colby

Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that

you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state

cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby

because Colby is a Wisconsin original cheese. There is even a

festival celebrating the cheese. It is held every mid-July. This

cheese was originally made in 1885 by Joseph Steinhilber. He

named it after the town in which they had built their first dairy

farm. Colby Cheese became very popular. It is considered to be

one of the first truly American cheeses. Once again, please consider

approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese.

Thank you for your time.

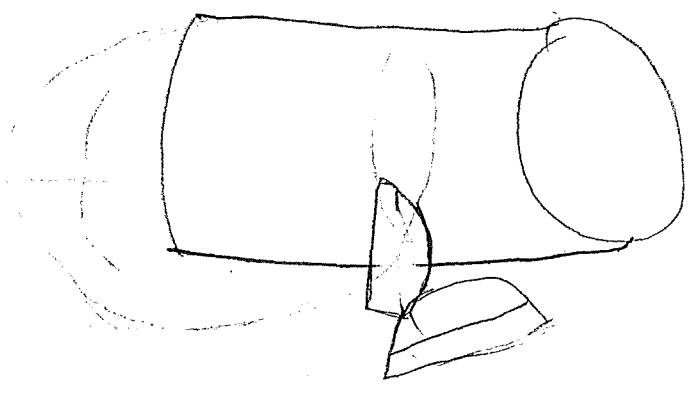
Sincerely,

Isabelle Tschopp

This is the colby cheese factory.



This is colby cheese.



A festival commemorating the cheese is held every year in mid-July, where all local food booths offer free Colby cheese. On August 12, 2015, the original cheese factory was torn down, leaving only the foundations.

Colby
Cheese

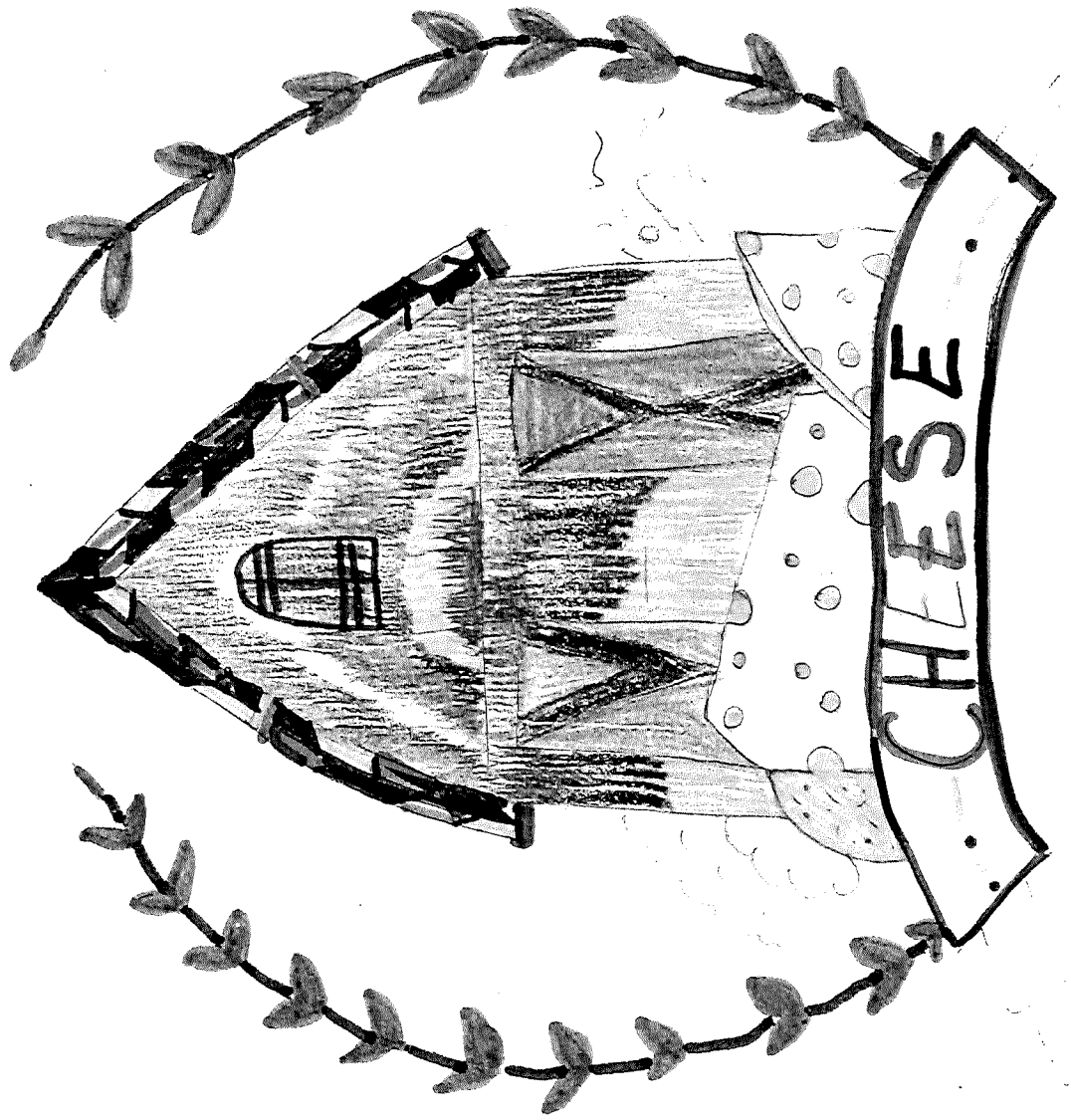
~~Brooke David~~

~~sincerely,~~

My name is Brooke and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. Colby cheese is the favorite cheese in the whole world. Colby cheese has 7 grams of protein and 0 grams of sugar. I think it is the best and it is very healthy. We also have Cheese Days to celebrate our famous cheese. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

Dear Legislators

11-4-19

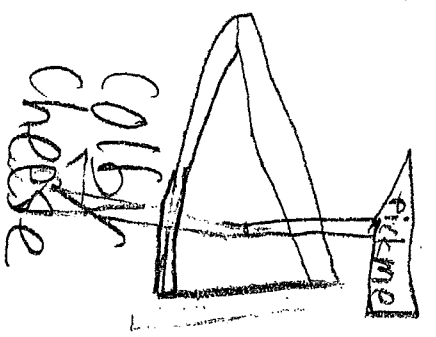


11-14-19

Dear Legislators

My name is Rhys and I am in fourth grade at Colby Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby doesn't get talked about. Colby cheese started in Colby WI. We should be famous. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese.

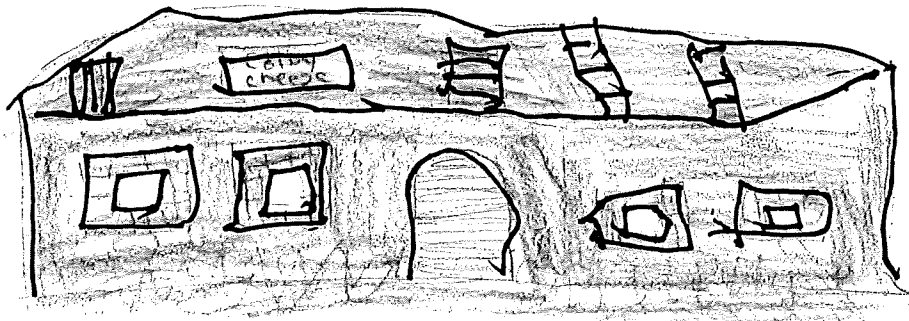
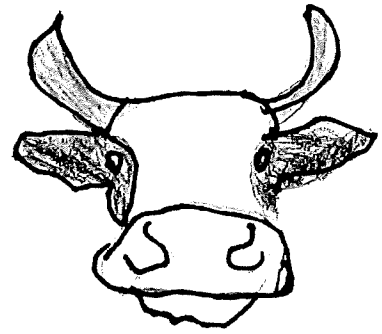
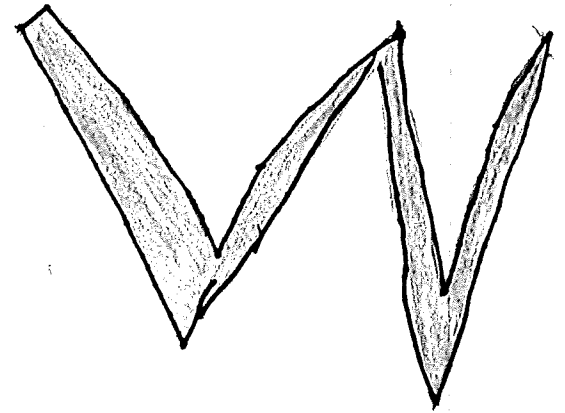
Thank you for your time.



Sincerely,
Rhys Row

J

Home of the cheese Wisconsin.



November 1, 2019

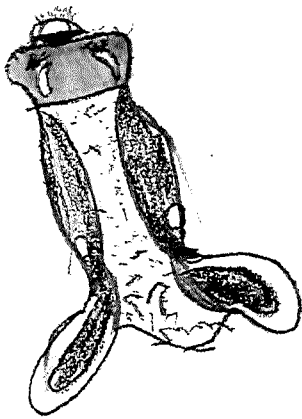
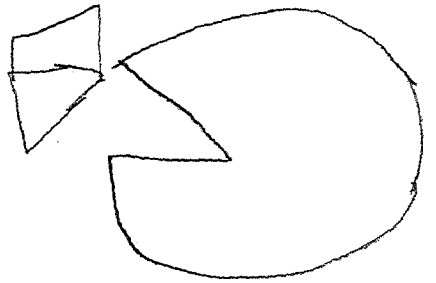
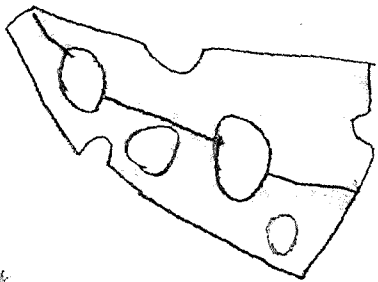
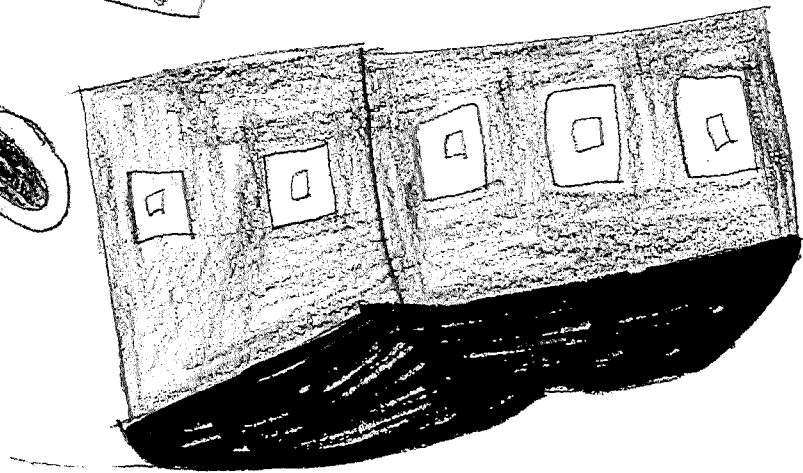
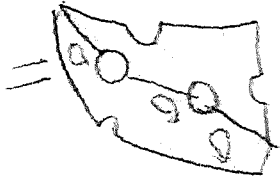
Dear, J. Pistone,

My name is Wyatt Rothmeyer of the 100th and I am a 11th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing you to ask that you approve the bid to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese of Wisconsin should be Colby Cheese. It is 100% Wisconsin. 21% of U.S.A's cheese is Colby Cheese. It is soft or thin and another cheese. If Wisconsin withdrew country it would be ranked 11th in the world in cheese production. Please make Colby Cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Wyatt A. Rothmeyer

GOLBY ~ Home of Wisconsin
famous cheese



Colony Cheese ~ American Dairyland

November 1, 2019

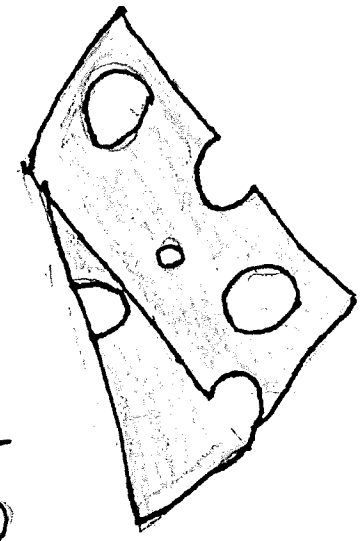
Dear Legislators

My name is Grace Duranear, and I
am in 4th grade at Colby Middle
School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing
to ask that you approve the bill to
make Colby cheese the official state
cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state
cheese should be Colby cheese. One
reason that I picked Colby cheese is
because the cheese was made in Colby.
Another reason is because Colby cheese
is a little softer than some different kinds
of cheese. Also we have Colby Cheese Days
to celebrate Colby's cheese. Another
reason is because the cheese was made in
1868. The last reason is because people
wear Colby cheese heads at packer games,
Bayer games and Brewer games.
Please make Colby cheese
the official cheese of
Wisconsin,

Sincerely,

Grace Duranear

Land of Cheese



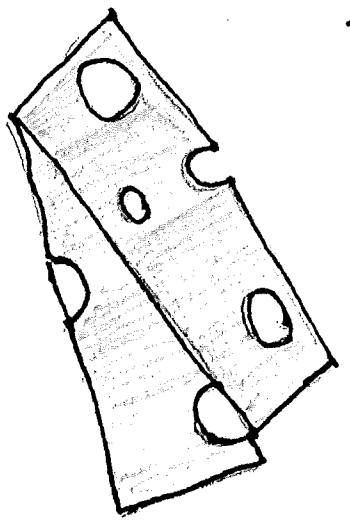
Wisconsin

Original!



Dairy land

A Product of America's
A delicious taste of Wisconsin



November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators

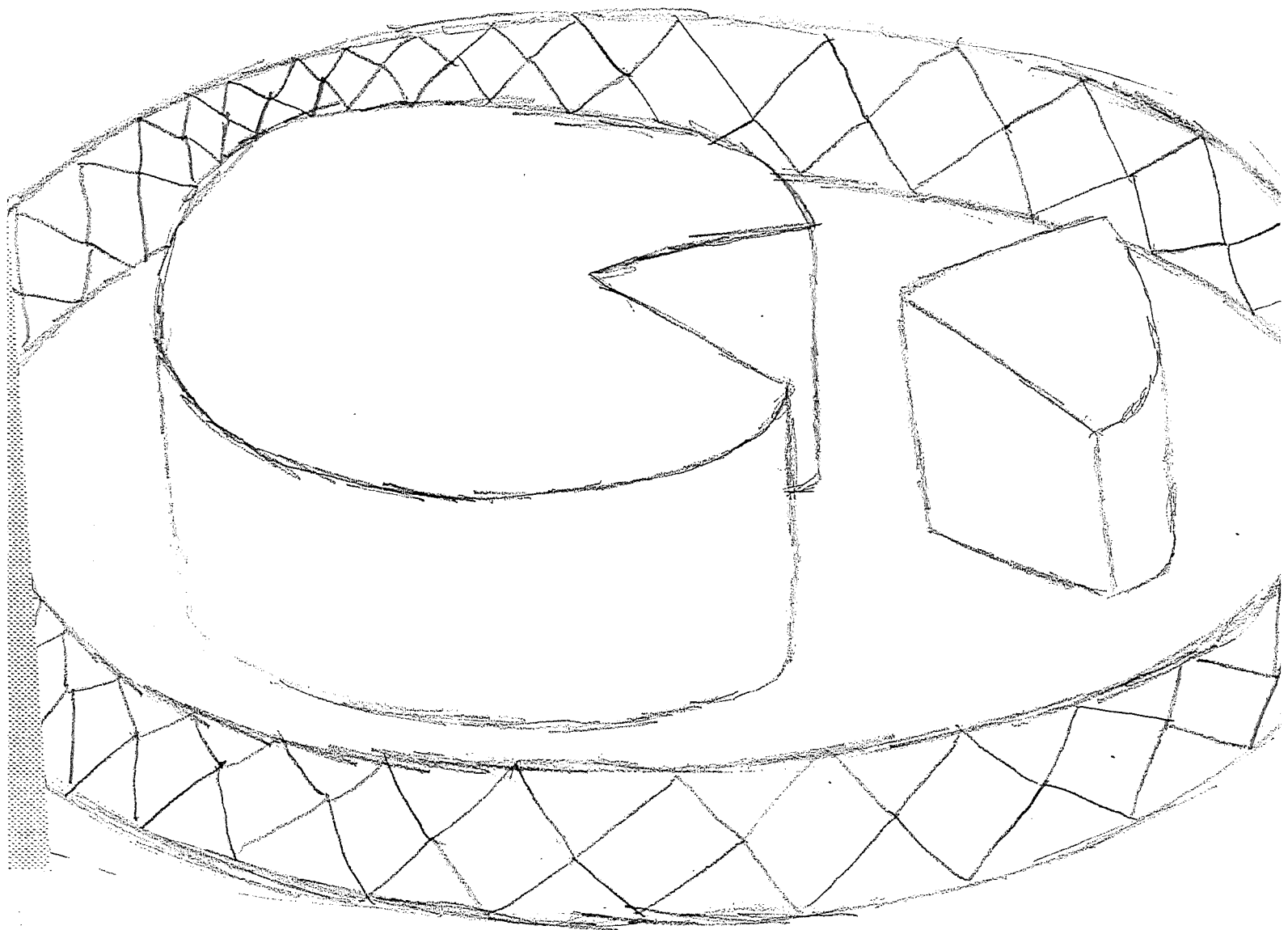
My Name is Cutter Hamus, and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official State cheese of Wisconsin. I think the State Cheese should be Colby cheese. It was invented here. And at Green Bay Packer games, some people wear cheese hats. Sometimes Colby was the first one it should be the official state cheese. The first place to have cheese I think. Please make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Cutter Hamus

Colby Cheese: a
Product of America's

Dairyland



November 1, 2019

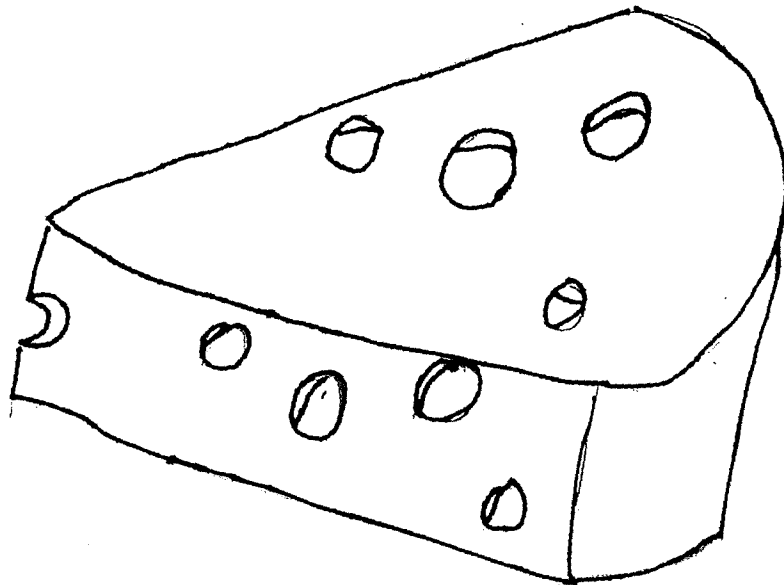
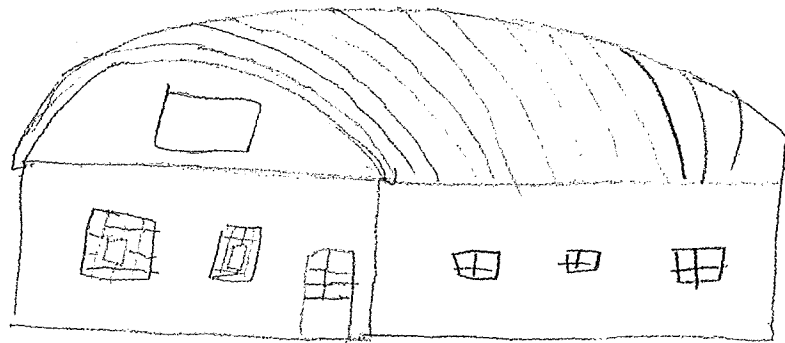
Dear Legislators,

My name is Ray Adams and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask if you can please help me to make a Colby cheese the official state cheese. I think the state Colby cheese. One person Colby cheese was made in Colby, Wisconsin. That is why reason is because Colby cheese is super moist. My 3rd reason Colby cheese is softer than other cheeses. My final reason is that you get the cheese is the best. It is hard to find. Colby cheese should

Sincerely,

Ray Adams

Colby ~ Home of Wisconsin's Famous Cheese



November 1, 2019

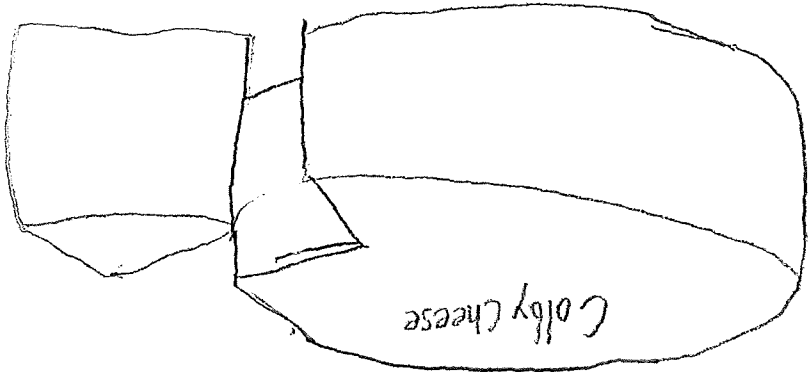
Dear Legislators,

My name is Gaby Salgado Jellings and I'm in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I'm writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby Cheese. One reason Colby Cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. The Colby Cheese was invented in 1885 by Joseph F. The Colby Cheese was first made in Colby, Wisconsin. Colby Cheese is the best tasting cheese. Please make Colby Cheese the official Cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Gaby Salgado

Colby Cheese A Delicious Taste
of Wisconsin



November 1, 2019

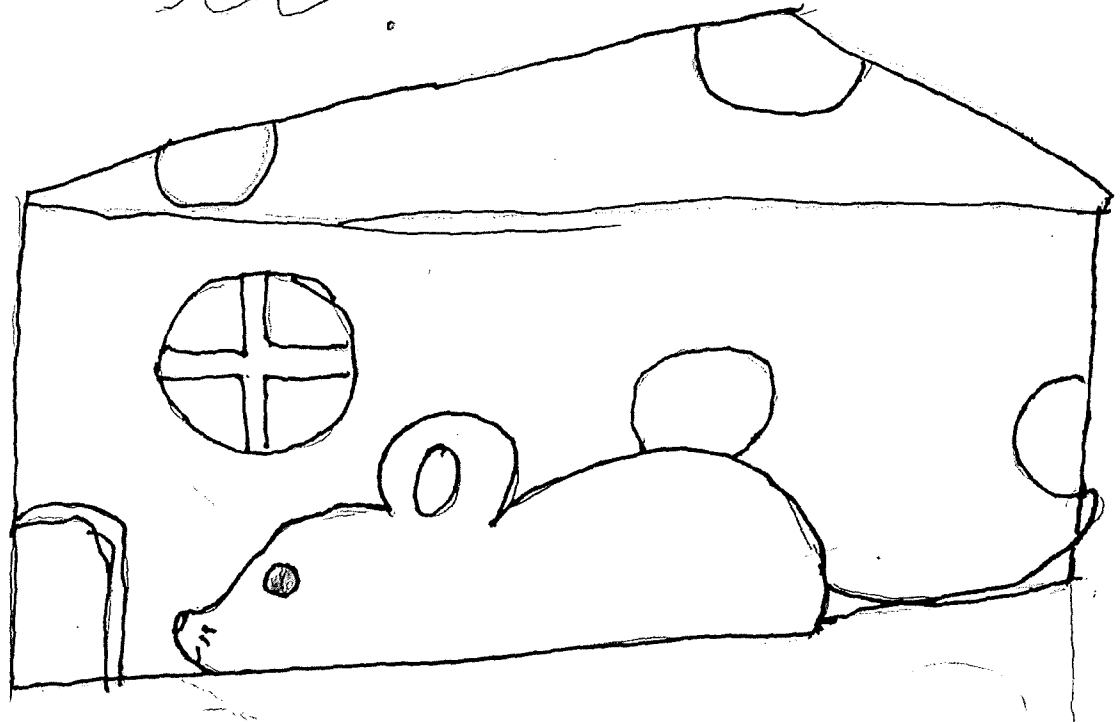
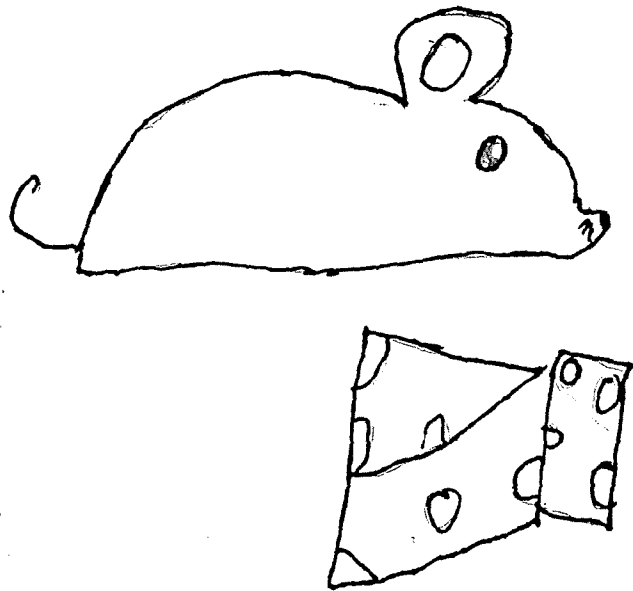
Dear Legislators:

My name is Ryanna Mason Weiler, and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby Cheese. Colby Cheese was invented in Colby Wisconsin. We have a Colby Cheese day celebration. I am from Colby. I want Colby to be the state cheese. Colby Cheese is the best tasting cheese. Please make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Ryanna Weiler

Colby Cheese has a
great taste. Lots of
people love it.



November 1, 2019 11:11-19

Dear Legislators,

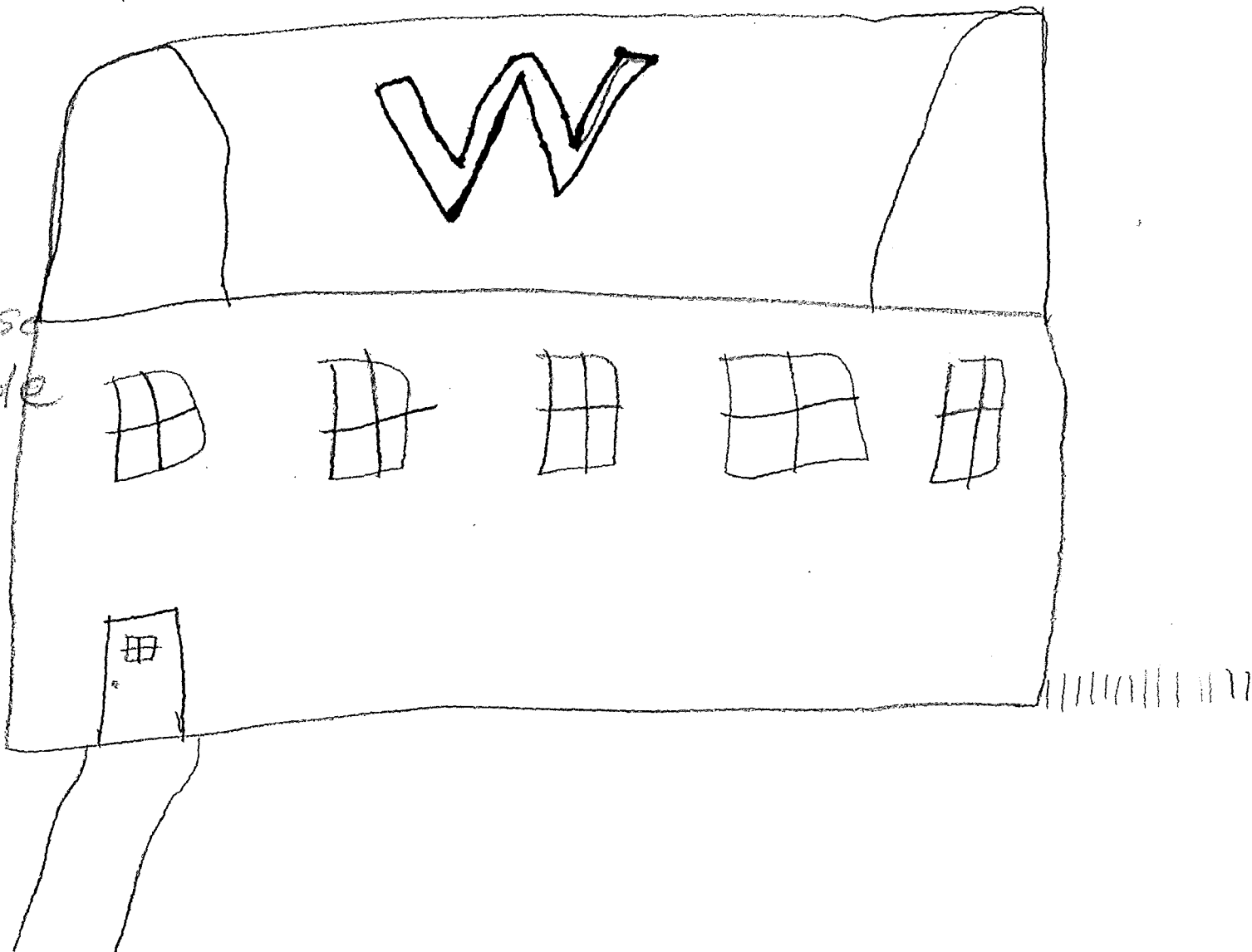
My name is Jac Hart, and I am in 4th grade at Colby middle school in Colby Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese. Colby cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. It is now eaten all over the world. Wisconsin is America's Dairy land. Colby cheese is the best cheese. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Jac Hart

Colby Cheese factory

Colby cheese
should be
the state
cheese because
it was made
in Colby.



November 1, 2019

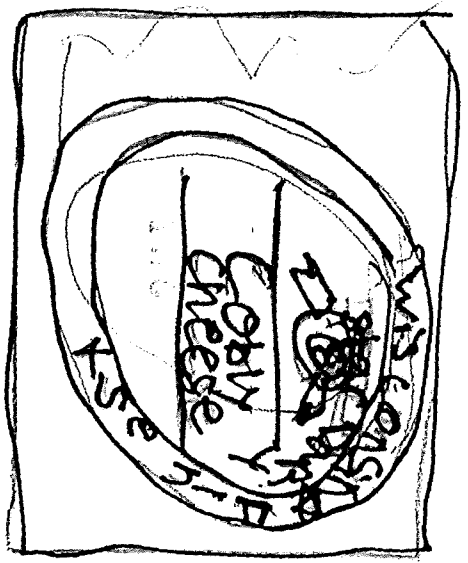
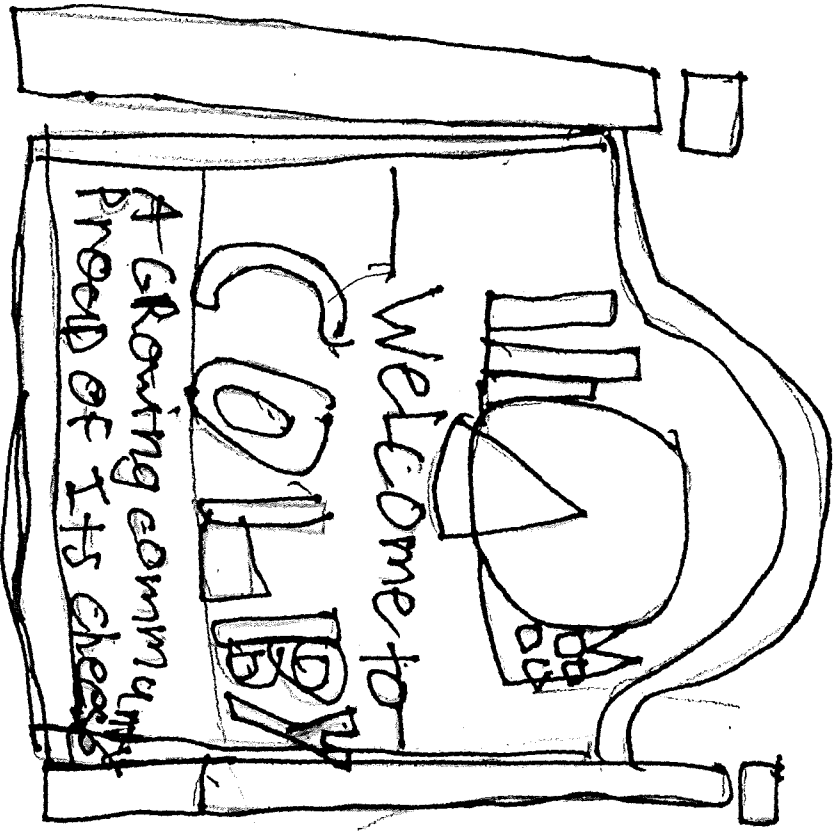
Dear Legislators,

My name is Lydia Papp and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the Colby cheese should be the state cheese. Colby cheese was invented by Joseph F. Stehward in Colby, Wisconsin. We also celebrate Colby cheese days. Colby cheese is softer than any other cheese. Wisconsin produces 21% of our country's Colby cheese in the USA. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Lydia Papp

COlby
Population 1852



November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Collin Rau, and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese. It was invented 1968 on Factory Road. Also, the person who invented it was Joseph F. Steinwand. Wisconsin produces 21% of our country's Wisconsin's are an iconic Dairy land. If Wisconsin were a country it would rank 4th in cheese production. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese.

Sincerely,

Collin Rau

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators

My name is Diego Mendozza and I'm in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby Cheese. One reason is because Colby Cheese was made right here in Wisconsin. Another reason is that Colby Cheese is being eaten all around the world. Colby Cheese is also the best tasting cheese. Our Wisconsin teams have fans that even wear Colby Cheese hats. Please make Colby Cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Diego Mendozza

11-1-19.

Dear LEGISLATOR,

My name is Ennin and I'm in Fourth Grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin.

The reason you should choose colby cheese as the state cheese is because colby cheese has the best taste on empanadas. It's sort of like cheddar but softer.

The second reason you should choose colby cheese is because colby school is very nice and I just started going to colby. The third reason you should choose colby is because colby cheese is soft and cheddar is cousin. That's why you should choose colby cheese as the state cheese.

Sincerely,

Ennin Crowe.

11-23-19

Dear Legislator,

MY name is Peter Caspell and I'm in 4th grade in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ASK YOU to approve the state cheese of Wisconsin as Colby cheese. I think the cheese should be Colby cheese because we have lots of cows and dairy products here. Dairy land gives us CHEESE!

Sincerely,

Peter Caspell

Common V. Johnson

Sincerely,

[Blank lined area]

My name is [redacted] and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you will ^{It} ~~approve~~ ^{approve} me to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese. ^{It} should be Colby because at Parker games they wear hats that look like cheese heads. Colby Cheese is good and delicious on pizza and more with cheese Colby Cheese days weekend is every summer. It is fun to celebrate our famous cheese!

Dear Legislator,

11-1-19

11-1-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Tegan Rue
and I am in 4th grade colby
middle school in colby,
Wisconsin.

I am writing to ask that
you approve the
bill to make colby cheese
of Wisconsin. I think the
state cheese should be
colby because almost
everyone likes our cheese.
It is the best cheese in
Wisconsin because it is
good for your body because
it is a healthy snack!

Sincerely,

Tegan Rue

Dear Legislator,

11-1-19

My name is Joann Heery and I am in Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese. It should be colby because my dad works at Manthin Cheese, he helps market lots of cheese for the area. I like colby cheese because I have it on my sandwiches. We have no state cheese yet so it would be awesome if we did!

Sincerely,

Joann Heery

11-1-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Logan Reynolds and I am in 4th
Grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin.
I am writing to ask that you approve the
bill to make Colby cheese the state cheese
of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should
be Colby cheese because it is 100% dairy
cheese. We work really hard on it in our
factories for everyone to enjoy. When you eat
it, it melts in your mouth! Please pick Colby
cheese. Our town would feel so proud!

Sincerely,

Logan Reynolds

11-1-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Elia Bau mann and I am in 4th grade Colby Middle school in Colby Wisconsin. I wish that you would make the state cheese colby cheese. I think it should^{be} because I would feel very honored. It would be cool to have colby cheese as the state cheese. It would be awesome to see colby cheese next to all the other state symbols in Wisconsin books. Colby cheese was invented by Joseph Steinwand in 1974.

Sincerely,

Elia Bau mann

11-1-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Frida Meza and I am
10th Grade at Colby Middle School in
Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that
you approve the official state cheese because it
will be awesome having Colby cheese as an honor
to our town. Pears will see how delicious and special
our cheese is too.

Sincerely,

Frida Meza

11-1-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Ryler and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle school in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask you to approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official State Cheese because I think it would be great to have it named after the town. Colby Cheese was also invented in Colby. Colby tastes the best because everyone in Wisconsin loves it!

Sincerely,

Ryler Carr

11-1-19

Dear Legislators

My name is Joshua Sarkkinen and I am in 4th Grade at Colby Middle school in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese because it is my favorite cheese. Another reason is Colby is the original place where Colby cheese was created. The last reason is that Colby cheese has the coolest cheese design. This is why you should make Colby cheese the state cheese.

Sincerely,

Joshua Sarkkinen

Jose Rodriguez

Sincerely,

My name is Jose Rodriguez and I am in 4th
Grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin.
I am writing to ask you that you approve the
bill to make Colby Cheese the official state
cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese
should be Colby because people love Colby cheese
in our town. Colby makes the best cheese.
Colby celebrates for cheese on Colby Cheese
Days.

Dear Legislator,

11-1-19

11-1-19

Dear Legislator;

My name is Kaden Yellowthunder and I am
in 4th Grade at Colby Middle school in Colby,
Wisconsin.

I am writing to ask that you approve the bill
to make Colby cheese the official state cheese
of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby
because Colby cheese is creamy and delicious. Colby cheese is
also eaten all around the world. Also people celebrate at
Packer games with Colby cheese for a fun snack. Go Pack
Go! Go Colby Hornet!

Sincerely,

Kaden Yellowthunder

11-1-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Alyson Blasel and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle school in Colby, Wisconsin. I think Colby Cheese should be the state cheese because Colby Cheese is delicious. Colby Cheese is great to have as the state cheese because I go to school in Colby. Colby Cheese is also eaten all over the world. I would feel really happy and proud if Colby Cheese would be the state cheese.

Sincerely,

Alyson Blasel

10-23-19

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese is the best kind on the whole Earth.

The Colby cheese is a good type to honor cheese of Dairyland in Wisconsin.

We can have a parties with Colby cheese. It is a very healthy and easy snack food.

Sincerely,

Alvisha
Mowdman

Dear Legislator,

My name is Daniel Nunez

and I am in 4th Grade at Colby

Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin.

Colby Cheese is a cousin to Cheddar

cheese. It's just softer. I am writing

to ask that you approve the bill to make

Colby Cheese the official state cheese.

It should be Colby because it is really tasty.

Everyone would like to eat it!

It was made in Colby, Wisconsin. It was

also named after our city!

Sincerely,

Daniel Nunez

11-13-19

11-1-19.

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because we are from Colby and I am proud of it! It will be fun for the 4th graders. I know a lot of people that like to eat Colby cheese on pizza, cheeseburgers, and as a snack.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Jansen

Dear Legislator.

My name is Jane Hannala, I'm from Colby Middle School. I'm writing to ask if State cheese could be Colby because it was made in Colby. It is delicious! Everybody that I know likes it and so far ALL 4th Grade wants it to be Colby. I live right by Welcome Dairy so I know they make a lot of it.

Sincerely,

Jane Hannala

11-1-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Zander Mann. I think Colby Cheese is the best cheese because Colby Cheese is the best cheese in the world. I eat a lot of burgers and sandwiches. It is the best cheese in the state. Please choose Colby Cheese for state cheese!

Sincerely,

Zander Mann

11-11-19.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Alex Wiland and in Utah Grade 4a colx Billingshoul. I thior cou should make any device that greese My cousin work. at the cleese factory/um works really hard. I + WOULD be Nefie poplax. If wouh be all over the world. It is a great cheese to eat.

Sincerely,

Alex Wiland.

11/4/19

Dear Legislator,

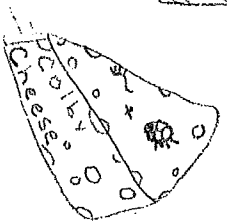
My name is Emily and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think Colby cheese should be the state cheese of Wisconsin. I also think Colby cheese should be the state cheese because if Wisconsin were a country, it would rank 4th in the world for cheese production. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby Cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emily

Colby

CHESSE



11-4-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Kaden. I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese is a semi-hard cow's milk cheese that is native to the United States, specifically Wisconsin. In Colby, there is a cheese factory which makes Colby cheese. Colby cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin by Joseph F. Steinwand in 1885. It was named for the township in which his father, Ambrose Steinwand Sr., had built the first cheese factory in Clark County three years before. Colby cheese is a good source of protein with vitamins and minerals. A one ounce serving of Colby cheese contains 6.47 grams of protein. Please approve the bill naming Colby Cheese Wisconsin's state cheese.

Sincerely,

Kaden Kunge

Dear Legislator,

Hello my name is Preston and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin.

I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese. I think the state cheese should be Colby because I love the taste of Colby cheese. I work on a dairy farm. We even have Colby cheese days to celebrate our famous cheese, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin State Cheese. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Preston

11-4-19

Dear Legislator

My name is Luke and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. Wisconsin is America's Dairy Land and if Wisconsin were a country it would rank 4th in the world's cheese production. Once a gain please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

9/1/19

11-4-19

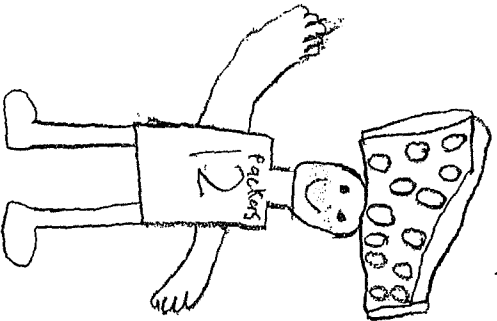
11-4-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Jeremiah and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. Did you know that Colby cheese is placed 2nd in the world? Wisconsin produces 21% of our country's Colby cheese. Colby cheese tastes so good, everyone wants to eat it! Our Wisconsin fans have fans that even wear Colby cheese heads. Once again, please consider approving the bill.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah ✓



11/4/19

Dear Legislators,

My name is Sofia and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese was invented in Colby. It is now eaten all over the world. Wisconsin produces 21% of our country's Colby cheese. Wisconsin is America's Dairy Land. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
Sofia

Colby
Cheese

11-4-19

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jordan and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the State cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin is America's Dairyland. We even have Colby Cheese Days to celebrate our famous cheese. Colby Cheese tastes so good, everyone wants to eat it! Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby Cheese Wisconsin's State Cheese. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan

11-4-19

Dear Legislators

My name is Josiah. I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese. There is not a lot of sugar in cheese. Cheese is a big part of Wisconsin's economy. Colby cheese was invented in Colby. Please approve the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Josiah

Colby

cheese



11-4-19

Dear Legislator,

My name is Alyson and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese is celebrated every year at Colby Cheese Days. Our Wisconsin teams have fans that even wear Colby cheese hats. Please consider approving the bill to make Colby Cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alyson

Dear Legislator,

My name is Abby and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state should be Colby because Colby cheese tastes so good everyone wants to eat it, especially at Packers, Badgers, and Brewers games. At Packers games, fans even wear cheesehats! Please consider approving the bill to make Colby Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Abby Eschmiller

11-11-19

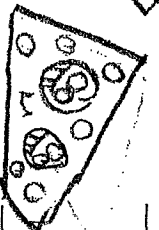
11-4-19

Dear legislator,

My name is Cyler and I am in 4th Grade at Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be

Colby because it is the 29th best cheese in the whole world!

The cheese was developed in 1885 by Joseph Stierwand in Colby. Once again, please consider the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese.

Sincerely,

Cyler P.

COLBY
CHEESE

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Elise Raynozo, and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask you that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I like state cheese should be Colby cheese. One reason is Colby Cheese was invented in Colby Wisconsin. Also Colby cheese is softer than Boursin is much milder and creamier if compared to Cheddar. Another reason is Colby cheese is new when all over the world please make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Elise Raynozo

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Brandon D. Allen, and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state should be Colby because Colby cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. Wisconsin was a country, it would rank 4th in the world in cheese production. Another reason the cheese was developed in 1874 by Joseph Burrard at his cheese factory near Colby. Colby is the best tasting cheese. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Brandon Allen

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Susana Fernandez Ortiz and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese. One reason is Colby cheese was first invented in 1968 in a factory. Wisconsin produces 10% of our country's Colby cheese in the U.S.A. Colby celebrates their cheese every year. Everyone eats Colby cheese all around the world. Also Colby cheese is healthy. Wisconsin is America's Dairyland. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Susana Fernandez Ortiz

November, 2019

Dear Legislators:

My name is Anali Mendoza, and I am in 4th grade
at Ellis Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am willing to ask
that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official State Cheese
of Wisconsin. I think the State Cheese should be Colby Cheese. The reason is
Colby Cheese is from Wisconsin. Another reason is that cheese was developed
in 1874 by Joseph Shelton and it is a Wisconsin Specialty. Another reason is
that we have Colby Cheese Days in Colby, Wisconsin for 9 days. Please make
Colby Cheese the Official Cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Anali Mendoza

November 12, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Alexander Capetillo Hernandez, and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese. One reason is that Colby cheese was invented in Colby. Another reason is because the person who invented the cheese was Joseph F. Stevard. Also, we are nicknamed the Dairy Land State, and Colby Cheese is the #1 soft cheese in the world! Please make Colby Cheese the official State Cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Alexander Capetillo
Hernandez.

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Beorgan Meyer and I am in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese because Colby cheese was invented in 1868 in Colby. Another reason, the person who invented Colby cheese is Joseph F. Steimwand and Colby cheese is 100% Wisconsin. Also, Wisconsin were to be a country it would rank 4th in the world in cheese production. Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Beorgan Meyer

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators:

My name is Jeff Malone, and I'm in 4th grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I'm writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official State of Wisconsin. I think the State cheese should be Colby Cheese. Colby Cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. Joseph F. Stein wand made Colby Cheese, and was made in 1835. We even have Colby Cheese Days to celebrate our famous cheese! Colby Cheese is the best tasting cheese ever! Please make Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Jeff Malone

November 1, 2019

Dear Legislators,

My name is Myla Schoelzel, and I am in 4th grade at Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby Cheese. One reason is because Colby Cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin. It is now eaten all over the world. Another reason is because Colby Cheese is the best tasting cheese. We even have Colby Cheese Days to celebrate our famous cheese. Also, Wisconsin produces 21% of our Country's Colby Cheese in the U.S.A. The last reason, is because in 1874 Colby Cheese was made in Colby by Joseph F. Steinwand. Please make Colby Cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Myla Schoelzel

November 1, 2011

Dear Legislators:

My name is Evans track and I am in Colby at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby cheese. One reason is Colby cheese was made in 1878 in Colby, WI by Joseph Strom and also Colby cheese is softer and has a more open texture and higher moisture. It is much milder and creamier than other. Also a fact is people can eat Colby cheese months or years after it is aged now that's a fact. Please make Colby cheese the official state cheese.

Sincerely,

Evans Track

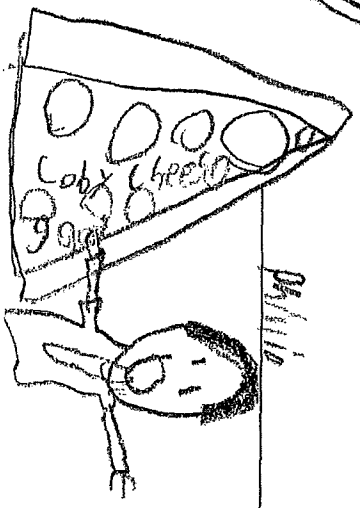
11-4-19

Deak Legishah,

My name is ~~Wade~~ and I am in 4th grade
at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am
writing to ask that you support the bill to make Colby
County the official state cheese of Wisconsin.
I think the state cheese should be Colby because
Colby Cheese tastes so good, everyone wants to eat it.
We even have Colby Cheese Days to celebrate our
famous cheese. Once again, please consider appointing the
bill to make Colby County Wisconsin's state cheese.
Thank you for your time.

COLBY

Cheese



Phillip,
5 Lincoln,

11-4-19

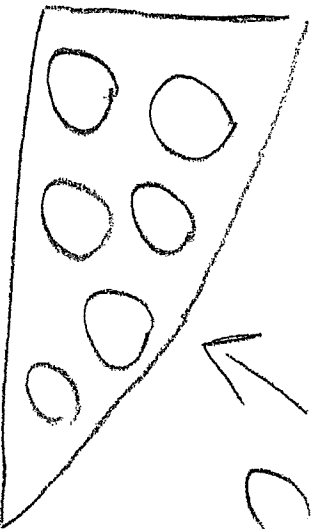
Dear Legislator,

My name is Alan and I am in
fourth grade at Colby Middle
School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am
writing to ask that you approve
that bill to make Colby cheese the
Official State Cheese of Wisconsin.
I think the state cheese should
be Colby because there are factories
in Colby that make cheese. Once
again please consider approving
the bill to make Colby cheese
Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you
for your time.

✓ Cheese
Sincerely,

Alan

Colby



11-11-19.

Dear Legislator,

My name is Caleb and I am in
fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby,
Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that
you approve the bill to make Colby cheese
the official state cheese of Wisconsin.
Colby cheese should be the state
cheese because we celebrate it
every year on Colby Cheese Days. Once
again, please consider approving the bill
to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's
state cheese. Thank you for your
time.

COLBY

Sincerely,

Cheese

Caleb

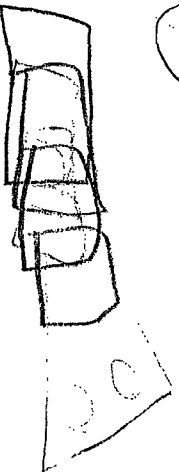
11-4-19.

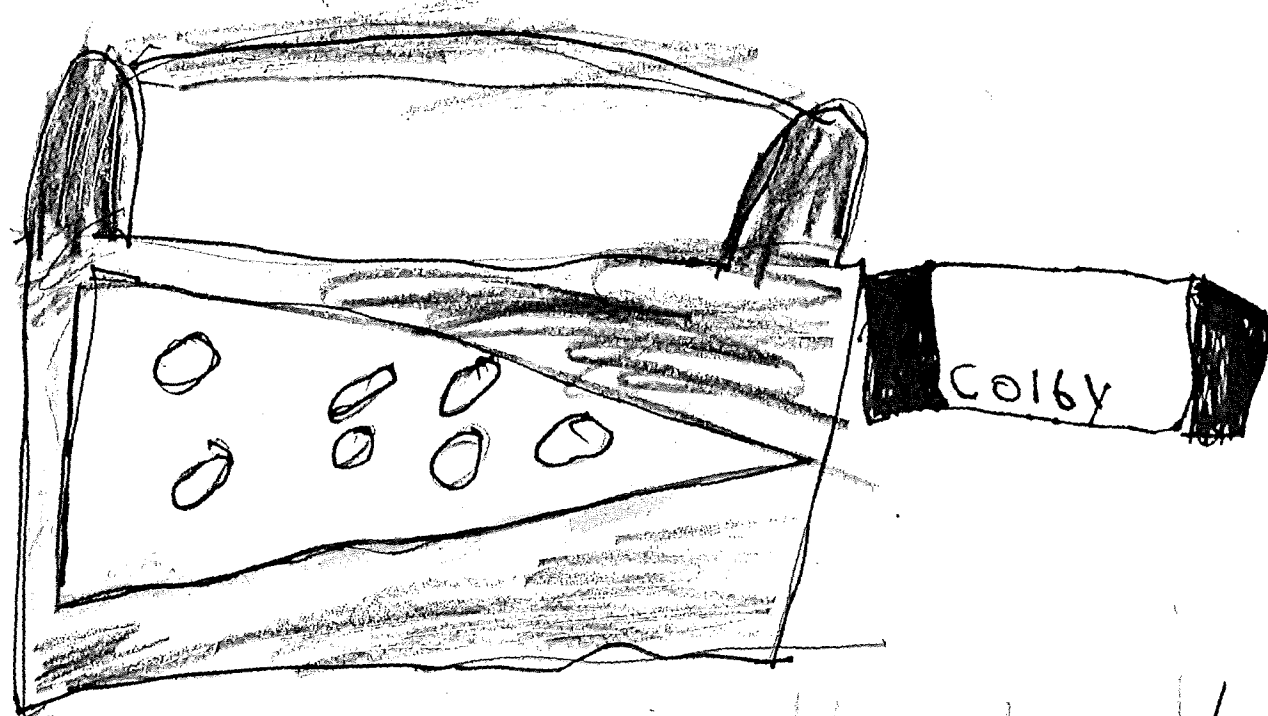
Dear Legislator,

My name is Coletana and I am in fourth grade at Colby Middle School in Colby, Wisconsin. I am writing to ask that you approve the bill to make Colby Cheese the official state cheese of Wisconsin. I think the state cheese should be Colby because Colby cheese is a healthy source of protein. Colby cheese is a semi-hard cheese made from cows' milk. It's similar in color to cheddar cheese, but Colby cheese has a milder flavor and is slightly more creamy. Once again, please consider approving the bill to make Colby cheese Wisconsin's state cheese. Thank you for your time.

**COLBY
CHEESE**

Sincerely,
Coletana





Colby cheese is the best!
I want to be Wisconsin
cheese,