



Please !!! I want to be the
State insect !!!

Mrs. Samudio's Second
Grade, Cumberland Elementary
600 Cumberland Ave.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
May 17, 2017

Dear Governor Holcomb,

We are writing to you because we would
like to share our idea with you. We hope that
you will see the merit of our project and want
to help us. (Angel)

We are second graders in Room
23 at Cumberland Elementary school in
West Lafayette. A few years ago one of the
second graders asked our teacher, when
they were seeing something about our 50

states, why most of the states had a state insect, but Indiana didn't. The same student asked, "How can we get one?" The second graders from Room 23 have been working on this quest ever since. (Sam L.)

Did you know that Indiana is one of two other state without an official insect? Did you also know that some states have more than one official state insect? Michigan and Iowa don't have a state insect either. The same student said that we don't want Indiana

to be the last state to get one. (Hailey)

Here are some of our top reasons why we believe the Sages Firefly should become Indiana's official state insect.

1. This firefly was named by Thomas Sages a self-taught naturalist who moved to Indiana in the early 1800s. He lived in New Harmony and identified over 1,500 insects and wrote books about them. He became known as the

Father of North American Entomology. (Stella)

2. The Say's firefly is unique and would represent Indiana proudly because it is indigenous to Indiana and North America. Not every state can make that claim.

3. Posey County residents have been looking for a way to improve tourism to their county. They believe that when the Say's firefly is named as Indiana's official state insect people from all over will want to come and see the beautiful fireflies for themselves. Tourism would also help their economy.

(Santiago)

4. State symbols are points of pride for Hoosiers. These symbols

highlight our cultural, environmental, and historical characteristics of our state. It doesn't cost the state any money to establish one. When the firefly is our state insect, and people sell merchandise to represent it, the state would benefit by collecting sales tax. (Baci)

5. Having the Say's Firefly as our state symbol will be a wonderful way to promote science across many areas of study, including STEM subjects such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for students of all ages.

6. Luciferin and Luciferase, the chemicals that make

fireflies glow in the presence of oxygen, have been used in medical research for diseases such as cancer and Multiple Sclerosis (MS). (Aiden)

Hoosiers that we have talked to are surprised that Indiana doesn't have a state insect. They believe that the Say's Firefly would make the perfect state insect because fireflies don't sting, they don't bite, and they do not harm anyone. Did you know that they are helpful to farmers? Tom Turpin, an entomologist from Purdue that we have been working with, calls fireflies the Paul Revere of the insect world. When farmers see

the lights from blinking fireflies in their fields, they know that the western corn root larva are hatching, and they need to go out and protect their crops from these pests. (Emma)

The legislators from Tippecanoe County believe in our idea. For the last two years we have had five bills up for consideration in the Indiana General Assembly. Unfortunately, we are having trouble convincing many of the other legislators the importance of supporting our idea. Do you ^{have} suggestions

that you could give us to
change their minds? (Joyce)
We would appreciate any help that
you could give us. If you don't
think that we are going to be able to
^{convince} the IGL to pass this bill for the
Says firefly, would you consider
something else? Would you consider
writing an Executive Order for the
Says firefly as Indiana's official state
insect? The residents of Posey County
and many other counties in
southern Indiana would benefit
from your support. Tourists
will want to come from ^{all over} to see

these marvelous insects for ~~them~~
themselves. If you support our
idea, we will be happy we got the
job done for Hoosiers everywhere!
(Yashi)

Your friends in Room 23
P.S. We would like to meet with you
to answer your questions. Please let
our teacher know if we can set an
appointment for this summer,
and she will get a school bus to
come down to the Statehouse. (Emma

Emma Richard
Jex Fauna Daniel

Santiago V. Sam L. Siri M.

Yash T. Oshin Joyce

Cal E. Stella Yash V.

Paci Aidem Brooke B.

Sam M. Hailey Hale

Christina Angel John

Josh Glebe

Maggie Samudio, Gr. 2 Teacher