

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 339**

Introduced by Hughes, 24; Brandt, 32; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47.

WHEREAS, the Blue River Cattle Trail follows the Blue River spanning from Abilene, Kansas, to Schuyler, Nebraska, and was used by Texas cattlemen with an overabundance of cattle answering the demand for beef in Nebraska and other northern states; and

WHEREAS, the cattlemen traveled north, but brought a fatal cattle disease with them that destroyed most of the local cattle populations. The cattlemen were then faced with retribution from Kansas and Nebraska including border patrols, quarantine zones, hefty fines, and angry and armed citizens; and

WHEREAS, to create a safer route, Joseph G. McCoy founded the small town of Abilene to create a convenient rail road terminal and established the Blue River Cattle Trail's start; and

WHEREAS, Abilene prospered, but the cattlemen faced new economic and financial problems and sought relief in rail prices and fewer delays on the route from a local judge William N. Font. Font negotiated with the Union Pacific Railroad and chose Schuyler, Nebraska, to become the Bull Head for cattle drives; and

WHEREAS, business boomed in Schuyler and the cattlemen received relief and safety along the Blue River Cattle Trail; and

WHEREAS, some cattlemen later stayed in Nebraska growing Schuyler, but due to such growth, a new law allowed stray cattle to be confiscated and fines were imposed on trail bosses for such strays; and

WHEREAS, Schuyler became unsafe and the Texas cattle business ceased, forcing the cattlemen to either return home or stay in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Blue River Cattle Trail allowed Texas cattlemen safe passage to seek fortune in Nebraska and the cattlemen who stayed in the state passed down skills for generations to cattle farmers today to help Nebraska become the

Beef State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature celebrates the history of the Blue River Cattle Trail and the historians who make such remembrance and celebration possible.
2. That the Legislature encourages citizens to celebrate and share the history of the Blue River Cattle Trail.