

Hello, I am grateful for the opportunity to share why I think the buckeye candy should be designated as the official state candy of Ohio.

For those who may not know, the buckeye candy is a peanut butter and chocolate confection made to resemble the nut that falls from our state tree- the buckeye tree. The actual nut itself is not edible, in fact, it's toxic, and fairly useless... but it's iconic! Ohioans use these nuts to make crafts like necklaces, keychains, and wreaths- all of which are symbols of Ohio pride.

My name is Alicia Hindman. I am the owner of The Buckeye Lady, a small business in Columbus that handcrafts one product- buckeyes. We handcraft traditional buckeyes along with an innovative twist we call Stuffed Buckeyes.

Every born-and-raised Ohioan knows a "Buckeye Lady" in their life.

The woman at church.

A neighbor.

A mom or a grandma.

Someone who makes buckeyes for the people they love- for game days, for weddings, for school events- We make buckeyes to celebrate. We make them to provide comfort. We make them because that is simply what proud Ohioans do. This candy shows up in the moments that matter most and it is woven into our culture.

If you Google "buckeyes in Columbus," The Buckeye Lady is often the very first result, because we have "Buckeye" in our name and Columbus in our address. That visibility often leads to people from all over the world seeking out "a taste of Ohio". In our storefront, we regularly meet customers who want to take something "Ohio" back to their friends and family. And there is nothing more Ohio than a buckeye.

This candy represents pride, not only for locals, but for visitors who want to experience what it means to be a Buckeye. The pride is so strong that the word "Buckeye" itself is used as a noun to describe Ohioans. We don't just like peanut butter and chocolate buckeyes, we are Buckeyes.

This bill is not just about recognizing a sweet treat- it's about honoring who we are as a state.

The buckeye candy is a symbol of pride that has united Ohioans for generations and will continue to do so for generations to come. Thank you...and Go Bucks!