

To: ND Legislative Assembly

Re: SB 2134

SB 2134 would have a devastating effect on the beekeeping industry in North Dakota if it were to be adopted into the Century Code.

Beekeepers are almost always able to place hives in a field at the farmer's discretion. These locations are oftentimes old farmsteads, unfarmable areas, or open areas near the entrance to a field or pasture. In general, the location has the least amount of impact on the farmer's ability to maximize production of their field.

Creating a setback distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from state/county roads would place an undue burden on the farmer's who are gracious enough to allow beehives on their land. The likely result would be the farmer simply no longer accepting bees on their land as they would inevitably now be in the way of agricultural activities. Consequently, the ND beekeeping industry would suffer greatly along with the tax revenue from honey produced in ND would decline.

Please do not pass SB 2134.

Respectfully,

Grady O'Neill

TJO Bees