

I am Rick Arrowsmith, I have been a beekeeper here in North Dakota for 18 years. My 2 sons and I work the bees here for

honey production. We have 34 acres of land along Hwy 83 north of Washburn. Over the last 14 years we have added 3 shops

to house our honey, comb and boxes. Our first building that was on the property when we bought it was converted to our

honey extracting room. We have 3 families and our employees that depend on the honey industry. If bill 2134 were to

pass it would be devastating to our families and our employees. We probably would have to go out of business as our

honey house and around 85% of our bee yards would not be legal.

The bee industry brings in a lot of revenue to the state of North Dakota. They buy fuel, wages, truck repairs and use

local businesses that we need to use to keep our businesses going. The families and employees buy groceries, go out for

meals, clothing, gas and recreation expenses, etc.

We have been told that around 85% of bee yards would be lost in North Dakota. The fields that hives are put in for honey

production are mostly canola, soybean, sunflowers, alfalfa, etc. The road system in North Dakota is set in 1 square

mile, you can't always put your hives further away from the roads. Same thing for the honey houses, most are close to

a road so you can get trucks in easily for loading and unloading.

Please remember all the beekeepers that come to North Dakota and all the business they bring with them before you vote

on bill 2134. Your vote will affect 1,000s of people and their families. There has to be something else that the state and the beekeepers can agree on.

Thanks,

Rick Arrowsmith

Washburn, ND