To whom it may concern:

My name is Wes Arrowsmith, my father, my brother and myself own our honey bee business and have since 1984. Let me first start by quoting some important statistics from our USDA's website "North Dakota has been the top producing state in the nation for honey for many years, out producing every state by at least double." "Honey bees are a vital resource for pollination, naturally contributing to the production of over 30% of the food we eat"

"The significance of the honey bee is both ecological and economical as estimates show that honey bees pollinate close to \$15 billion in crops annually. Without pollination, we would experience a detrimental loss in crops" "The decline of the honey bee is serious. It is estimated that the number of colonies has diminished by almost 50% in the United States. Honey bees and other pollinators are key to a sustainable future."

In 2021 in North Dakota alone there were 325 registered beekeepers, some coming in from out of state. Combined the own over 740,000 hives that they place through out the state every year. With so many county roads and federal highways in the state it would be extremely difficult for an already declining industry to even so much as produce. If this bill were to pass it would be absolutely demolishing to the livelihood of a countless number of families and their businesses while also hurting the economical impact they have on the state and its communities.

With that being said here are some points i'd like you to consider:

- There are many farmers with their own crops in the state, that also benefit from the bees but don't want trucks rummaging through their crops or farmland for us to get to a bee bee yard when one could simply be using a bee yard thats closer to a road.
- Some small landowners and farmers who enjoy having bees on their property wouldn't get the opportunity to help the agriculture community if they don't own enough acreage to house hives.
- With the amount of farm land getting less and less beekeepers are already at a disadvantage of where to place hives. .
- Like many others our business, residence, and honey house are a combined property and literally set right off one of the states main highways.

With that said I'd like to strongly encourage you to oppose this bill, for the agriculture community, the North Dakota economy and the livelihood of many, many families.