

To the members of the committee:

Thompson Apiaries, Inc. of New Rockford is a family owned and operated business in east central North Dakota. Our business was founded in the mid 1960's.

We are writing in opposition to SB 2134.

Many of the places we use as bee yards were established in the 1960's with the direct approval of the landowners of that time period. We created extremely close relationships with many of the current owners as those sections of land passed to the next generations and the landowners appreciate the benefits the honeybees provide to their crops.

North Dakota is an agricultural state. Beekeepers take great pride in being the number one honey producing state in the United States. That status will most likely go away if this bill passes. Placement of bees is directly related to the foraging sources and crops grown in the area. This extreme restriction of placement would most definitely decrease honey production as well as revenue for the beekeeper.

Many bee yard locations were selected due to ease of access during the wet spring placement time. Beekeepers and landowners work together to find a location that has the least impact on the farming / ranching operations yet is suitable for bee foraging.

Our honey house and honey extraction equipment are located on the edge of New Rockford. There are 2 roads within 100 feet of our buildings. This bill would make our main location for extraction unusable.

Placement of honeybees should be left to the landowner. This bill would take away the rights of landowners and destroy the beekeepers right to farm.

Please consider all the negative consequences this bill would have on honey production, pollination of crops, rights of landowners and the overall negative economic impact to North Dakota.

Please vote NO on SB 2134.

Respectfully,

3 Generations of Thompson Apiaries, Inc.

Elaine Thompson
Lonnie & Lisa Thompson
Hunter Thompson