

TO: Members of the Committee

RE: SB 2134

We are writing in opposition to SB 2134

Five Star Honey Farms of Minot ND is a family owned and operated business that was established in 1998 and consists of Will and Peggy and their three sons, Matt, Levi, and Evan Nissen.

We are natives of ND and all having been born and raised in ND we want to continue raising honeybees in ND. It saddens us that we have to suffer in the industry with the introduction and intrusion of Senate Bill 2134. This will affect 85% of all bee locations in ND. The bee industry in ND is the #1 honey producing industry in the nation supporting hundreds of jobs. To attack one foraging insect in our State is unacceptable. Honeybees are grouped together with a lot of other foraging insects. Insects do not adhere to man-drawn borders on a map and as such they may be found beyond their listed reach. Honeybees are typically drawn to a certain area by an available food supply, the weather, or other environmental factors such as pollination, water supply, mating patterns, etc.

This also involves limiting landowners their rights and our rights as landowners. This includes our own warehouse facility that we harvest our honey in which is within the quarter mile distance of the roadway that would not allow us to do business on our own property if this SB becomes law. We would have no place to load or reload our bees that is accessible for large semi trucks if this law is implemented.

We have built good relationships with these landowners over many years and it is to the best interest of beekeepers to remain in good rapport with the landowners that give us permission to place our bees on their land. We are North Dakotans that need to keep the "friend" in friendly and work together for the better of the State and those that live here.

Therefore, we think a good solution would be to NOT enact a new law but rather create a process where the State Bee Inspector calls the Beekeeper and the Landowner to discuss the complaint of bee locations being too close to the roadway and come to some kind of resolution without a new law so that as beekeepers we can continue our livelihood of beekeeping in this North Dakota industry.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding of our thoughts and investment to the beekeeping industry of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Five Star Honey Farms

Will, Peggy, Matt, Levi, and Evan Nissen..

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