

SENATE BILL NO. 2134

Dear Senators and Representatives of ND,

I'm writing you in the concerning regards of HB2134. My name is Travis Dietzler and I'm a third generation North Dakota commercial beekeeper. My Grandfather and Father started keeping bees in Grand Forks County back in the late 60's. In 1976 my Grandfather and Father went commercial and beekeeping has been the sole income for my family ever since. My brother and I have been involved in bees since we were kids. Fast forward to present day my brother and I have been working side by side with our father and establishing strong relations and bonds with landowners and farmers to maintain our 6000 colonies of bees.

In recent, seeing the proposed bill 2134 would bare a heavy burden not only to our family business but to my family, my employees and to the families of my employees. If this Bill passes it will force us to downsize and cut staff. With the overwhelming number of large out-of-state commercial beekeepers and corporate apiaries it is already an unbearable task finding new locations to place our bees to maintain a safe distance from other operators and this Bill will make that impossible. Better than half of our apiary sites are located less than the proposed distances from roadways. With the hay land, CRP and tree groves being turned into cropland we are losing 4-8 yards a year being forced to relocate and overcrowd our already established apiary sites. Beekeeping is already a struggle trying to combat the mites, colony collapse disorder, rivalry/competition, high output costs, pesticide negligence and surviving mother nature.

Being a third generation beekeeper I've seen the slow and tough progression in this business but we've always put the landowners, farmers and neighbors first. As guests on the land we strive to keep good relations with not only the landowner/renter but with their neighbors as well. Several farmers request we keep bees on their crops for pollination and this Bill will infringe on the rights of the farmers to harbor bees on their own land for the benefit of crop pollination.

In spite of trying to keep a letter short and to the point I end my response here asking that this preposterous bill be voted out and down. Let the North Dakota Beekeepers maintain their livelihood for the future upcoming beekeepers of this state. Regulating the out-of-state beekeepers would be a much better alternative.

If more information is wanted/needed to regards of my personal opinion on HB2134 I would be more than happy to be contacted by cell, 218-230-5512

Thank you for your time, Travis Dietzler