

Bill 2134

To: Member of the Committee

Senator Shawn Vedaa

Senator Cole Conley

Rep: Ruby M Doctor

SENATE BILL 2134

Hearing Date: January 13, 2023

Place of hearing: Bismarck, ND/ For Union Room- ND State Capitol

Troy Southam/ Owner/Beekeeper

Resident of North Dakota

I am the owner of Southam Honey Farms, and I am in OPPOSTION of bill 2134. This bill would eliminate a way of life that has existed in North Dakota for a very long time. North Dakota has graciously welcomed beekeepers. This bill destroys the livelihood of hundreds, if not thousands of beekeepers, employees and landowners. This bill destroys the common thread between the landowners and beekeepers with government over shadowing. This bill is larger than rearranging a way of business for beekeepers and landowners. This bill would allow State/Government to dictate how any business or landowner can do business.

This bill proposes ideas that are quite frankly, undoable for most beekeepers if not all. We have honey production warehouses that would require to be moved or closed due to restrictions. Also, we need to consider the cost of relocation and moving bee sites. The loss of land locations would result in no sites. This is a difficult task as it stands now, a forceable bill like this is a catastrophic nightmare in all ways.

When creating laws for residents and businesses owner I believe conversation is always a way for solutions. We should discuss the possibilities of laws that could destroy livelihoods and an age old industry.

I believe this would destroy my business as well as others.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and opinions to the beekeeping industry of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Troy A Southam
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