MONDA HONEY FARM INC.

KATHY MONDA

EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721

Testimony-Senate Bill 2134

I am a first-generation Bee Keeper who established Monda Honey Farm Inc. in 1979 and now our son Jerod Monda and his son Austin Monda continue to own and operate the Honey Farm Inc. Bee Keeping is our sole source of income. We live on the MN border of ND and run most of our colonies in ND from Fordville to Walhalla. We pay state income tax in both MN and ND. We employ 12 additional seasonal workers for over eight months yearly and extract all our own honey. We plan to continue passing our farm down to further generations.

ND is a farming state in which the farmers rely on our honey bees to pollinate their crops-they need honey bees! North Dakota is number one in the nation for honey production.

We find it hard to be able to always find an access to set our colonies that would be more than a ¼ mile from a road. Farmers use all their farm land to produce their crops and do not want to give up valuable crop land. Honey bees can fly in a two-mile radius from their hives so they will still be able to cross these roads even if set further away. We try very hard to set our colonies where they do not bother people or other colonies. We also deal with chemical spray of pesticides and fungicides for farmers crops so we are very careful where we set our bee yards so they are not sprayed. We have lost lots of CRP fields in ND

in recent years as farms have put their land back into crop production which has made honey production much harder.

I fear that a bill with these kinds of restrictions will cause many problems to our honey business and the entire Bee Keeping industry. Please do not put such hard restrictions on an industry that has so many other issues to deal with just keeping our colonies alive.

Kathy Monda

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