

Hello Members of the Committee:

My name is Josh Freeman. I am the managing partner of Noyes Apiaries, Inc. and the Vice President of the North Dakota Beekeepers Association. Noyes Apiaries has been operating out of Turtle Lake, ND since 1984. We are a family owned business with three generations working together for a better future. Our honey house and residence are located along highway 41. This bill would make our property unusable, and would put not only my family business, but an entire industry at risk of collapse.

Honey bees are a value added benefit to North Dakota agriculture. One third of the food we consume is directly pollinated by bees. Even crops that do not need bees to pollinate have better yields with bees. Every Canola grower I put bees on tells me they see an increase in yield the closer they get to the bees.

We place our hives at the discretion of the land owner or lessee. The majority of our locations are in old farmyards that are not feasible for the land owner to farm. As guests on the land we try to be as unobtrusive as possible. With this law I would be forced to ask a land owner to take an acre or more of land out of production to accommodate my bees.

I urge this committee to not recommend adoption of SB 2134.

Josh Freeman
1195 17th Ave NW
Turtle Lake, ND 58575