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Members of Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs

My name is Lonnie Bertsch. I am the Executive Director of ABATE of North Dakota.

I am writing this letter to support SB 2134. Bee hives placed next to state roadways can be a hazard to bicyclist's, car/truck traffic and motorcycle traffic. The bees can greatly impair a vehicle drivers' visibilities as the bees travel from their apiaries to the fields. I'm sure we have all experienced hitting swarms of bees while traveling on the roadways. We have also experienced the distraction of having a bee fly into our car. I personally have had friends who are allergic to bees end up in the hospital due to an unexpected contact with bees while driving.

This bill is not meant to hurt the bee industry. It is meant to have the apiaries moved a to safe distance from roadways. This move will help protect our citizens and the health bee population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Bertsch
Executive Director
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