

Senators:

I, Doug Ruby, am in opposition to Senate Bill 2134 as this would negatively impact my livelihood as a beekeeper. I have resided in Milnor, ND for 47 years and have never seen or heard of any complaints coming from landowners or townspeople about the bees being located to close to a roadway.

My father, Dick Ruby, started this apiary business in 1964 in Dwight, ND. Then he moved to Milnor in 1975. Over the years we have had hundreds of bee locations in southeast North Dakota, and of those locations my guess would be that over 90% of them have been located less than the 1/4 mile from a roadway.

Today, I have around 4000 hives from the months of May - November located in 90-100 different locations in the counties of Ransom and Sargent. As with our past history, over 90% of these locations are situated less than 1/4 mile from a roadway. If this bill were to pass it could remove the majority of these bee locations because of a plethora of reasons.

Some of my locations currently are located in CRP. Meaning, driving further into the property could damage the area plus displace wildlife and become even more difficult to access with our trucks. Trucks are heavy, and the further into properties that we need to travel, means the more likelihood of becoming stuck due to heavy rains or snow. Also, I would assume that most of the landowners wouldn't appreciate the bees being hauled into the center of the property. Keep in mind that most sections in North Dakota are a mile square, so we would be putting yards in the center of these sections if this bill were to pass.

If this bill were to pass, I would lose a majority of my locations because they are, where they are for a reason. If I were to lose the majority of my locations, I would more than likely be put out of business. If my apiary business were to be shut down due to the passing of this bill, there are multiple adverse actions that would occur from that. My business is located in a rural town which heavily relies on Agriculture. No bees = smaller crops = less money back in to the local businesses and state! Also, I do have employees as well as myself that earn income from Ruby's Apiaries that shop locally.

Please use some common sense and come to the realization that if this bill were to pass, the State of North Dakota would suffer tremendously! I am in opposition of Senate Bill 2134.

Best regards,

Doug Ruby  
President  
Ruby's Apiaries, Inc.