

To: ND Legislative Assembly

From: Macauley Haag

Re: SB NO. 2134

This testimony is in opposition to SB NO. 2134.

Requiring that beekeepers place hives ¼ mile from the road will not solve the interaction of flying bees and vehicles. This stipulation will only cause additional problems for local beekeepers, landowners, and an already struggling bee population.

A bee's flight path is determined by the food and water sources surrounding their hives location. Bees will often fly up to two miles in search of adequate food and water to provide for their hives. Flowering plants such as alfalfa in ditches is a popular source of food for bees. Many crops that bees are attracted to are planted right next to popular roadways and regardless of the hive distance from the road, these crops will continue to attract the nearby bees. Is the next step restricting farmers to where they are allowed to plant flowering crops on their own land?

Oftentimes beekeepers place their hives in accordance with accessibility and landowner permission. If this stipulation were to pass it would create many issues for beekeeper access and additional headaches for landowners. Placing hives near a gate or an easy access point is much easier than driving down section lines and expecting landowners to create additional access points further from the road. A large concern for beekeepers is that many landowners would rather not deal with the hassle of access issues and would no longer allow bees on their land.

As a motor vehicle operator and avid motorcycle rider, I assume the risk of possibly encountering bees and any number of other bugs and animals when I drive or ride. This Bill would devastate an already declining bee population and would vastly limit the successful honey production North Dakota is renown for. North Dakota should stand with its beekeepers and support this proud industry that is overwhelmingly positive in our great state. Please do not pass SB NO. 2134.

Respectfully,

Macauley Haag