

Senators:

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 2134.

My name is Damaris Lorenz. I am a beekeeper in Stutsman County. My home and farmstead are also in Stutsman County, at the intersection of County Road 40 and 77th Ave. I purchased my Grandparents farm in 2004, where my grandfather also kept his beehives. My farmstead is a 10-acre rectangle. In the 18 years that I have owned the property, I have done many things to improve the property for the benefit of honeybees as well as other pollinators including butterflies and wild bees. I have planted a pollinator plot, a vineyard and many flowering trees that benefit pollinators and wildlife. If Senate Bill 2134 passes, it would make it illegal for me to keep my bees on my own property. The bill would also affect all the bees I have on other properties.

Most farmers and ranchers don't have acreage that would be accessible ¼ of a mile off the road. The old farmsteads and shelterbelts (where most bee locations sit), simply aren't that far off the road. Landowners are not going to want a beekeeper driving through their crops to get the bees that far away. Many of the landowners also don't have enough property to get that far off the road. The state would be telling landowners that they do not have the right to have beehives on their property, because they don't own enough land to do so.

I also feel the need mention, I am a motorcyclist and have been riding for over 20 years. In all that time, I have been stung by only one flying insect, which was a wasp. It stung me in the head, because I chose not to wear a helmet. The bigger issue may be helmet laws.

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Damaris Lorenz