

MONDA HONEY FARM INC.

Austin Monda

EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721

Testimony-Senate Bill 2134

I am a 4th generation beekeeper at Monda honey farm. We employ 12 seasonal workers helping us in Oklahoma and back in Minnesota and North Dakota for the honey crop. Our bees help pollinate plants and other crops in California, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and North Dakota. We have 5,000 colonies but so some operations that is consider small. Many other beekeepers come up to North Dakota to make a honey crop and help all the other agricultural farmers in North Dakota with the pollination of their crops as well.

I oppose this law as it would not be any help to anyone. If anything, it may make more people mad as beekeepers will have to set more hives in one location because this would make finding locations more difficult. Honey bees will fly up to 2 miles to find flowers and plants to pollinate they do not go in any direction they are asked to go in. Beekeepers also need good land to place their hives in and to get to them even in wet conditions many of those spots usually aren't to far off the road for easy access. Placing hives off a main highway may bother people but it is mostly only the fact they see hives we have yards that if in the fall the leaves fall off the trees farmers call and say I didn't know there was even bees located there if you cant see the hives you most likely wouldn't even know they are here.

Not once have we had a complaint about having bees off the roads or even to close to farmsteads. We actually get called up by surrounding farms because they want the honey bees around all their

crops because they see and statistics prove that honey bees yield better crops in all agricultural fields.

I believe if this law were to pass and will affect the beekeepers as I mentioned and think it will cause many other problems as well more than likely drawing less beekeepers to come to North Dakota causing a huge economical decline for North Dakota.

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