

SB 2134

Good morning Chairman Luick and Senate members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee. For the record my name is Senator Shawn Vedaa from District 6 Velva. I am here today to present SB 2134 as it is written. Full disclosure I have nothing against bees and the bee industry. ND is the #1 producing honey state. I do not own a motorcycle; I have in my younger years. I have a 3-year-old granddaughter who sits on my lap and wants to watch bee videos. So I don't have a dog in this fight, however I have a constituents who has a concern about bees and motorcyclist safety. I asked Legislation Council to put a bill together 1 of a 1000 they are doing. I have to admit I didn't like the penalties, come to find out the Ag Commissioner's office doesn't have the ability to enforce them or do they want to. I do know that bills get amended in committee so instead of taking that out I knew it could be amended in committee.

When it comes to many bills at the end, we may have a product that some from both sides can live with and seldom where all can. Can this bill in this committee bring forth a bill that a majority of all sides can live with. You will hear neutral testimony from the Ag Commissioner's office that will give some direction in the way to a bill that may work.

I've heard from both sides as I'm sure many of you have. I've learned a bee is able to travel 5 miles from the hive so a quarter mile may not solve the highway issue. I saw that the Ag Commissioner office has a map of bee locations in the state. I don't know enough about the bee industry and the challenges they have including government oversight. I know I didn't care for government in my grocery store; however, some was necessary. Is this legislation necessary, that's to be determined.

Like I said earlier I was asked to bring this to the attention of the legislators, and we don't want any losers in this legislation. If motorcyclist lose it could mean a life and if the bee industry has to move a quarter mile off the road it will kill the Bee industry, Their words not mine.

Thank you for your time if there aren't any questions, I will head back to my committee otherwise I will stand for them.