

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2134

My name is Ben Duben. I grew up in Coleharbor, ND and currently live by Washburn, ND with my family. I'm a full-time beekeeper and run a one-man honey bee operation near Coleharbor, ND and surrounding areas. My bee operation is my sole source of income. I am opposed to Senate Bill 2134, relating to the placement of location of beehives.

When looking where to place bee hives, I consider three main factors: (1) Whether there are flowering crops (like canola, sunflowers), alfalfa, trees, or other flowering plants nearby that the bees can pollinate; (2) Whether another beekeeper has bee hives close by that will already be pollinating that area; and (3) Whether there is a location I can physically get to without driving on a farmer's crop or hayfield.

Many of my bee yard locations are within ¼ mile of less-traveled county roads. Roughly half of my beehive locations would be in violation of the proposed bill. During wet years especially, it is difficult to get into bee yards that are located more than a ¼ mile from a roadway.

Beekeepers register our bee yard locations with the state. Most farmers want bees on their property to help pollinate their crops, pastures, and hayfields. If the bill passes, it will eliminate many of my and fellow beekeepers' registered bee yards, making it even more difficult to find productive yards and pollinate our state's crops, pastures, and hayfields.

Passage of this bill will not help our agricultural industry, and I respectfully request a DO NOT PASS on Senate Bill 2134.

Benjamin Duben
ND Beekeeper