

To: ND Legislative Assembly

From: Macauley Haag

Re: SB NO. 2343

This testimony is in opposition to SB NO. 2343.

Requiring that beekeepers place hives 1/2 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. 2343.

Respectfully,

Macauley Haag